

CIARDAS SPISKI
(Poland)

Ciardas Spiski (CHYAHH-dahsh SPEES-kee) is a couple dance of the Spisz mountaineers. Spisz, part of which is in Czechoslovakia, is an interesting area with a mixture of agrarian cultures of the Polish, Hungarian, and German settlers, and of shepherd cultures of the Wallachian nomads. These four influences have created a unique folk culture. This dance was collected by Jas' Dziewanowski in the summer of 1980 in Łapsze Wyżne (WAHP-sheh VISH-neh). Ada and Jas' Dziewanowski taught Ciardas Spiski at the 1982 Mendocino Folklore Camp and the 1983 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

RECORD: Tance Ludowe z Polski (Folk Dances from Poland)- Vol 3
JA-222 Side A/1. 2/4 meter

FORMATION: Cpls at random about the floor in shldr-waist pos. M
face in LOD (CCW).

STEPS and STYLING: Reflecting the Hungarian influence on this dance, Hung-
arian names for similar steps are used.

Double Csardas (1 to 2 meas): M: Step on R to R side (ct 1); step on L beside R (ct 2); step on R to R side (meas 2, ct 1); touch ball of L ft in back of R heel (ct 2). W: Dance the same with opp ftwk and direction but on meas 2, ct 2 close R to L, no wt. Step alternates. On the upbeat of each ct, slightly flex both knees and on the ct, straighten them. This is done in a relaxed (not staccato) manner. M may rotate ptrs hips slightly, CCW on ct 1 and CW on ct 2 of each meas. W does not rotate hips herself.

Downbeat Rida (1 to a meas): To turn CW with ptr: Step fwd on R, toe turned out and bending knees (ct 1); step fwd on ball of L straightening knees (ct 2).

Turn Position (CW): Stand with R hips adjacent, W hands on M shldr. M place R hand just above WL waist and L hand (or wrist) on WR arm just above the elbow.

Turn Position (CCW): Same as Turn Position (CW) but L hips are adjacent and MR hand (or wrist) on WL arm just above the elbow.

Leap-Swing (1 to a meas): With R hands joined and somewhat extended, make a small leap to side (MR, WL) swinging free leg across in front (ct 1); hop (ct 2). Step alternates but R hands remain joined throughout. M: Raise L hand overhead, palm fwd, and move it to R in a large waving motion (ct 1); return hand back to where it started (ct 2). W: Place L hand on hip, fingers fwd.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

A 1-2 INTRODUCTION No action.I. DOUBLE CSARDAS

3-12 Beg MR, WL, dance 5 Double Csardas steps. On meas 12, ct 2 M step on L beside R (instead of touch). Both M and W have R ft free.

II. DOWNBEAT RIDA AND LEAP-SWINGS

B 1-4 In Turn Pos (CW), dance 4 Downbeat Rida steps beg R and turning CW.

5 Step fwd on R, toe turned out and bending knees (ct 1); pivot CW on R ft so L hips are adjacent (ct 2). On the pivot, L leg is raised with knee bent in preparation for a stamp.

6 Stamp L (no wt) near R (ct 1); hold (ct 2).

7-12 In Turn Pos (CCW), repeat meas 1-6 with opp ftwk and direction.

13-18 Repeat meas 1-6. End facing ptr. M take wt on stamp.

19-23 Joining B hands, dance 5 Leap-Swings beg MR, WL. M wave L hand. W place L hand on hip, fingers fwd.

24 Stamp free ft near supporting ft (M: L ft with wt, W: R ft with no wt) (ct 1); hold (ct 2). M put L hand on hip, fingers fwd.

III. LEAP-KICKS (music speeds up)

C 1 With R shldr twd ptr, R hands joined and extended, lean away from ptr and circle CW; Leap fwd onto R as L ft is lifted up behind (ct 1); hop on R while kicking L ft fwd, knee straight and ft flexed (ct 2).

2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk but same direction.

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.

5 Repeat meas 1. On hop on R, start to turn CW (individually).

6 Stamp L (no wt) near R, releasing R hands and joining L hands (ct 1); hold (ct 2).

7-12 Repeat meas 1-6 with opp ftwk and direction (CCW). Take wt on stamp (meas 12, ct 1). Release joined hands, ready to take Turn Pos (CW).

IV. FAST TURN

- D 1 In Turn Pos (CW) circle CW with ptr; With wt on R ft, jump fwd (upbeat), landing on both ft, L ft ahead of R (M land on L heel)(ct 1); step fwd on R (ct 2).
- 2-5 Repeat meas 1 four more times (5 total).
- 6 Stamp L near R (taking wt) and change to Turn Pos (CCW) (ct 1); hold (ct 2).
- 7-12 Repeat meas 1-6 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 13-24 Repeat meas 1-12.

INTERLUDE

- A 1-2 Take shldr-waist pos with ptr. M face LOD.

V. WALK FORWARD AND BACK

- 3-4 Beg MR ft fwd, WL ft bkwd, walk 3 steps, bending and straightening knees easily (cts 1,2,1); M: slightly raise L ft up behind while bending and straightening R knee, W: leaving ft where they were, bend and straighten knees (ct 2).
- 5-6 Repeat meas 3-4 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 7-10 Repeat meas 3-6.
- 11-12 Repeat meas 3-4 but on meas 12, ct 2 M step on L beside R. Both have R ft free.
- 60 meas REPEAT FIGURES II, III, IV.
- REPEAT ENTIRE DANCE ONCE MORE.
During Introduction take shldr-waist pos with ptr.

Description written May 1984.

Description subject to revision before publication in "Let's Dance."

Presented by Bruce Mitchell
Statewide '84, Sacramento