

Cigánytánc

(Szabolcs, Szatmár County, Hungary)

Two forms of dance are found among Gypsies living in Hungary: (1) Cigány Tánc (Gypsy dance) and (2) Botoló (stick dance). The Cigánytánc that is described here can be done by one man, by one woman, and in couples. In the men's solo form, demonstrating one's virtuosity is the aim. When dancing with a partner, a game occurs in which the woman attempts to get behind her partner's back while he tries to prevent her without ever touching her. The dance in its traditional form, is never done in a group. A couple may begin dancing and then another man or woman will come and replace the first, and then another, and so on. Musical accompaniment consists of singing, "mouth music" (a series of nonsense syllables and sounds), and percussion instruments such as wooden spoons or even milk cans, serving as the rhythmic basis for the dance. More recently, guitars and contra brács (viola) have been added.

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Pronunciation: TSEE-gahn-tahnts

Cassette: Kotansky camp cassette-I Should Have Danced All Night Side A/3, A/4 4/4 meter
or any good cigeinytanc.

Formation: For recreational purposes, Steve teaches this as individuals in a circle, facing ctr. Arms held up about chest level and move freely. Fingers snap continually in front of body.

Meas

Pattern

I. PIHENÖ (Rest)

- 1 Facing ctr, touch R toe (or heel) fwd (ct 1); step on R beside L (ct 2); touch L toe (or heel) fwd (ct 3); step on L beside R (ct 4).
2-4 Repeat me as 1 three more times (total of eight touch-steps).

II. SÉTALO (Walk)

- 1 Facing ctr, touch R toe (or heel) fwd (ct 1); step on R to R (ct 2); step on L across R (ct 3); step on R to R (ct 4).
2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.
3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.

III. HEEL TWISTS

- 1 With wt on L ft and ball of R ft touching slightly fwd, bounce on L and twist both heels to L (ct 1); bounce on L and twist both heels to R (ct &); step on R beside L (ct 2); repeat cts 1, &, 2 with opp ftwk (cts 3,&,4).
2-4 Repeat meas 1 three times (total of eight heel twists).

Cigánytánc-continued

IV. FWD WITH HEEL SHIFT AND BACK

- 1 Facing ctr, accented step fwd on R (ct 1); accented step fwd on L (ct 2); accented step fwd on R (ct 3); click L ft to R ft (ct 4); shift heels to L (ct &).
- 2 Step bkwd on R, twisting L heel to R (ct 1); step bkwd on L, twisting R heel to L (ct 2); repeat cts 1-2 (cts3-4).
- 3-8 Repeat meas 1-2 three times (total of four times).

V. STEP STAMP

- 1 Step on R in place (ct 1); tap L heel next to R, no wt (ct &); step on L in place (ct 2); tap R heel next to L, no wt (ct &); step on R heel to R (ct 3); step on L behind R (ct &); step on R to R (ct 4); tap L heel next to R, no wt (ct &).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.

VI. CIRCLING

- 1 Step on R heel to R (ct 1); step on L behind R (ct &); step on R to R (ct 2); tap L heel beside R ft (ct &); making 1/4 CW turn, step on L heel to L (ct3); step on R behind L (ct &); step on L to L (ct 4); tap R heel beside L ft (ct &).
- 2-4 Repeat meas 1 three more times (complete full CW turn in eight side-behind-side steps).

MEN'S OPTIONAL PATTERN (while W are circling)

- 1 Fall onto R (ct 1); click L ft to R, no wt (ct &); fall onto L (ct 2); click R ft to L (ct &); jump onto both ft, slightly apart (ct 3); click heels together in the air (ct &); separate ft in air and land on both ft together (ct 4).
- 2 Jump onto both ft, R crossed in front of L (ct 1); on balls of both ft, turn once CCW (cts 2-4).
- 3 Step on L in place (ct 1); slap R calf with R hand (ct &); step on ball of R in place (ct ah); step on L next to R (ct 2); slap R calf with R hand (ct &); repeat cts 1-2 with opp ftwk and slaps (cts 3-4).
- 4 Step on L in place (ct 1); slap R calf with R hand (ct &); step on R next to L (ct 2); slap L calf with L hand (el &); step on L next to R (ct 3); slap L thigh with L hand (ct &); slap R calf with R hand (ct 4).

Repeat from beginning until music ends.

Presented by Suzanne Rocca-Butler