

GĄSIOR
(Poland)

Gąsior is a couple dance from Górny Śląsk (Upper Silesia) in southwestern Poland. The name means the gander. The tune has two parts: 4 meas of the slow melody A in 4/4 time, and 4 meas of the faster melody B in 2/4 time; melody B is played four times with a retard on meas 16.

Pronunciation: ~~GAWSIOR~~ GAWN-shor

Record: ZM-40591 "Tańce ludowe z Polski" (Folk Dances from Poland), side B, band 7.

Formation: Cpls around the circle in open social dance pos, both M and W facing LOD, outside arms hang down.

Meas Pattern

INTRODUCTION.

1-4 No action.

PART I. (Melody A)

1 Starting with outside ft (M L, W R), with four slow steps move in LOD, gradually raising slightly curved outside arm (palm facing in) fwd and ~~up~~ ^{SLIGHTLY ABOVE} own head level.

2 Without changing the pos of the arms, step fwd with outside ft, inside ft remains in back, toes touching floor, knees straight (ct 1); hold (ct 2); shift wt bkwd onto inside ft, toes of outside ft now touching floor in front (ct 3); hold (ct 4).

3 Repeat action of meas 1 in opp direction: note: arms will return to orig pos.

4 Repeat action of meas 2 in opp direction, except on ct 1 turn head and body slightly away from ptr, and on ct 3 turn head and body twd ptr and place outside ft near other ft, without wt.

PART II. (Melody B played four times)

1 Face LOD and starting with outside ft move fwd with two light step-hops, swinging outside arm, elbow bent, freely fwd and bkwd.

2 Release ptr and with two more step-hops, make a full turn away from ptr (M CCW, W CW) still moving fwd and swinging outside arm.



MWVE IN
R LOD
BACKING
UP

Continued...

GASIOR (continued)

3-16 Resuming open social dance pos repeat action of meas 1-2 (Part II) seven more times (eight times in all), except during meas 16, which is retarded, ptrs join outside hands and bend their knees in preparation (ct 1); W: keeping the R arm stiff, spring off both feet and keeping knees bent and together pull legs up so that your thighs are parallel to the floor; M: leaning slightly away, lift ptr holding her in waist, then placing her L thigh on your R hip make a full CW turn with four steps and put her down (ct 2).

Repeat the dance twice (three times in all).

Dance introduced in the Spring of 1974, at Carleton College Folk Dance Club in Northfield, Minnesota, by Jaś Dziewanowski, and presented at 1976 Stockton Camp, University of the Pacific, California, by Ada Dziewanowska. They learned the dance in Cieszyn, Poland, from Janina Marcinkowa, the noted Silesian folklorist. Do not reproduce these directions without the Dziewanowskis' permission: 41 Katherine Road. Watertown, Massachusetts 02172. Tel: (617) 923-9061.

Presented by Ada and Jaś Dziewanowski