

Presented by Carolyn Mitchill

GUSTAF'S SKOAL

(Swedish Group Dance)

This is a carefree dance, especially useful when there are people or children without partners, because the "extras" can jump in during Part 2 to steal someone's partner, and add to the fun of the dance. Although not authentic to do so, in some groups the dancers shout "Skoal" after the word "pledge" in Part 1.

Part 1 is danced with decorum, as though in a court paying homage to King Gustaf, while the second part is lively as all rejoice at the King's ball.

SOURCE: By Michael Herman, The Folk Dancer Magazine, Flushing, New York

RECORD: RCA Victor 45-6170 (41-6170)

OPENING FORMATION:

...Square set of four couples, with girl on boy's right. Two opposite couples should be designated "head couples."

 Music 2/4

 Pattern

Part I (see figure above)

Meas. 1-4 With joined hands (boy's right, girl's left), and free hands on hips, head couples walk forward 4 steps and back 4 steps, singing:

"A toast we pledge to Gustaf who is brave and true."

Meas. 5-8 Side couples do same figure, singing:

"A toast we pledge to Gustaf brave and true."

Meas. 9-16 Repeat whole figure from beginning

continued...

Part 2 (see figure below)

Meas. 17-24 Head couples take 4 skips toward center, drop hands, exchange partners, and skip between the nearest side couple with 4 skips.

Separate, clap own hands, and return to original position to meet own partner with a two hand hold, and swing to the right once around in place.

Part 2 is done with skipping steps. The count is: 4 skips to center, 4 skips between side couples with new partner, 4 skips alone to original position, and 4 skips turning with own partner.

Meas. 25-32 Side couples do same figures, going between head couples.

Repeat entire dance from beginning as often as desired.

NOTE: Extra people around the floor may enter into the dance by stepping into the place vacated by a dancer as he skips into the center in part 2. When the dancer returns and finds someone else in his original place, he then must wait for the next round of the dance to get his place back.

