

OLENDER

(oh-LEHN-dehr)

Olender is a couple dance from the region of Kurpie zielone (KOOR-pyeh zyeH-LOH-neh) in northeast Poland. It can, also, be danced as a mixer. The name comes from the word "Holender," meaning a Dutchman. Both the tune and the dance have been brought from Holland by Dutch workers, who because of their experience were brought to northeast Poland to assist in draining the swamps. The dance, in slightly different versions, is done in both Kurpie and the neighboring regions of Warmia (VASH-myah) and Mazury (mah-ZOO-rih) in northern Poland. In Kurpie there exists several ways of dancing it, depending on the locality and/or age group. The tune is composed of sixteen meas, but the pattern of the dance takes only eight meas. Olender is played here by an old, well-known musician, Józef Mróz. He uses a very unusual instrument popular in Kurpie, a pedal accordion (harmonia pedałowa) (hahr-MOH-nyah peh-dah-WOH-vah), into which the player, who sits on a chair, pumps air through a pipe by means of two pedals. Mr. Mróz is accompanied by Józef Sobiech, who plays a fiddle, and Jan Kamiński, who plays a special Kurpie tambourine, called "bębenek" (behn-BEH-nehk), a small drum.

Music Record: XM-46755, "Easy Dances of Poland," side B, band 3, (available from Ada Dziewanowska); 2/4 time.
 Starting Position: Cpls around the circle in open social dance pos, M's back to ctr. Beg each Fig, M with L ft, W with R ft.

PATTERN

Meas
1-2

INTRODUCTION

- FIGURE 1: IN PLACE
- 1 Raising outside arm (M-L, W-R) diag over head, elbow slightly rounded, wrist loose, do a weighted stamp (ct 1); hold and slightly bend elbow of the raised arm (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1 with opp ftwk, but same arm movement.

- Variation to Fig 1
- 1 In closed social dance position, with three small accented steps (cts 1, and, 2) on springy knees, dance a 1/8 turn twd ptr (M-CW, W-CCW).
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1 of this variation with opp ftwk and dir.
- Note: This variation may be danced omitting the 1/8 turn.



(cont.)

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3-4 FIGURE II: TURN WITH PARTNER
Assume closed social dance pos and with four steps do one or two full CW spl. turns, moving in LOD.

5-6 FIGURE III: IN PLACE
Repeat action of Fig 1, meas 1-2.

7-8 FIGURE IV: WOMAN MOVES FORWARD
Resume hold of outside hands. M: lead ptr to turn and to move in LOD. W: with four steps dance one full CW turn under the joined hands and move in LOD to the M in front of you. New ptrs assume open social dance pos.
9-16 Repeat action of Figs I-IV, meas 1-8.

REPEAT THE DANCE SIX MORE TIMES (EIGHT TIMES IN ALL).
NOTE: INSTEAD OF FIG IV, FIG II MAY BE REPEATED AND THE DANCE CEASES TO BE A MIXER.

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