

Poniewierany

Pronunciation: poh-nyeh-vyeh-RAH-nih

Record: ZM-46729 "Tańce ludowe z Polski - Volume 2" (Folk Dances from Poland), side A, band 4, available from Ada Dziewanowska.

Poniewierany is a mixer in 2/4 time from the region of Szamotuły [shah-moh-TOO-wih] in the western part of Poland, called Wielkopolska [vyeh-l-koh-POHL-skah] (Great Poland). Wielkopolska, with Poland's first capital, Gniezno [GNYEHZ-noh], was the cradle of the Polish state. It is an important agricultural district, and rich in varied folklore traditions. Some of the old costumes have been preserved there and are still worn on special occasions. Among them is the Szamotuły costume, which is characterized by the blue color of the unmarried woman's dress, a very elaborate white bonnet made out of starched tulle, which in one form or another is a part of many other Wielkopolska costumes, and her indispensable small white handkerchief pleated in the shape of a fan, which she adroitly uses while dancing. Man often dances with a big whip, held in his either right or left hand, also ornamented with a big white handkerchief. In some dances, when not dancing with a partner, he snaps it.

The name of the dance is derived from the verb "poniewierać" - to illtreat somebody, or "poniewierać się" - to be knocked about, which describes the fate of the woman in this dance, where she cannot find a place of her own.

Styling and Steps

When danced not holding your partner the Polka Step in this dance is 3 flat steps done on bent knees and the whole foot, the styling is heavy and down to earth, especially for the Man. The third step is accented for the Man by stamping and for the Woman by an extra bending of the knees. Man's arms are free. Woman's L hand is held on own hip, fingers forward, thumb back, elbow slightly forward. In her R hand she holds a handkerchief and, whenever it is comfortable to do so, fans herself with it using mostly wrist action, and holding it a few inches from her bust, elbow down.

When danced with partner do a plain flat polka.

The Pivot in this dance, called the "okroczak" [oh-KROH-chahk], done with 2 steps per meas, is smooth and has the same style as the Polka.

Formation

Cpls around the circle, ptrs facing, approximately 1 ft apart, M's back to ctr. Beg all Figs M-L ft, W-R ft.

Measures

PATTERN

INTRODUCTION

1-2 No action.

PART I

Mel A

- 1 M: turning to face LOD, do 1 Polka Step twd ctr. W: making 1 CW turn, do 1 Polka Step away from ctr.
- 2 M: do 1 Polka Step away from ctr and return to orig place, facing ptr. W: do 1 Polka Step into circle and end facing ptr.

Mel A Part I (cont.)

- 3-4 Assume round shldr-waist pos and do 4 Pivot steps, moving in LOD, making 2 CW cpl turns.
5 Repeat action of meas 1.
6 M: do 1 Polka Step away from ctr and diag bkwd to reach next W in RLOD. W: do 1 Polka Step diag fwd and into circle to reach next M in LOD; new ptrs end facing each other.
7-8 Repeat action of meas 3-4 with your new ptr.

Mel B

- 1-8 Repeat action of meas 5-8 (Part I) twice.

PART II

Mel C

- 1-2 Do 2 Polka Steps, moving in LOD, making 1 CW cpl turn.
3-4 Do 4 Pivot steps, moving in LOD, making 2 CW cpl turn.
5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Part II).

Repeat dance twice (3 times in all), except on meas 1-2 (Part I) of each repetition dance pattern of meas 5-6 (Part I).



Dance introduced in June 1977, at the Folk Arts Center of New England Pine-woods Folk Dance Weekend, by Ada and Jaś Dziewanowski, who learned it in Poznań from Jacek Marek, a teacher of Polish dance in Poland, and a noted specialist of Wielkopolska dances. Do not reproduce these directions without the Dziewanowskis' permission.