

STORDANS

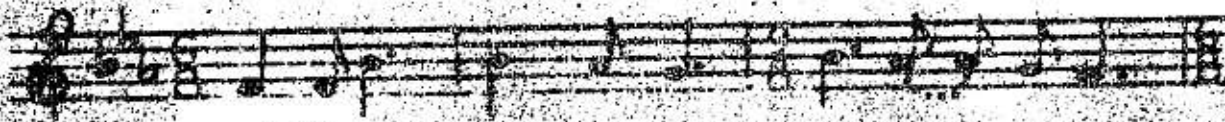
(NORWAY)

(means "Big Dance"; say "Stoor-dahns")

Stordans is the oldest known dance form in Norway. It is believed to date back at least to 900 A.D., the time of the Vikings. It was nearly extinct until re-discovered around the turn of the Century in the Faeroe Islands, west of Norway, where the people still do it today. Men and women join hands at shoulder height in a line moving RLOD in a simple step to the accompaniment of their own singing. Subject matter for the songs may be stories of the heroes, public events like the killing of a whale, or legendary tales of trolls and beautiful maidens, etc. It is best danced in a confined space such as a dark cabin where the singing and stamping and massed bodies fill the space, intoxicating the dancers who go on for hours.

ORMEN LANGE

This poem tells about the famous norwegian king, Olav Trygvasson, building his long-ship, Ormen Lange (Long Snake), to sail for the sea battle of Svolder, year 1000. The word "Hildarting" in the chorus, here translated "battle test", refers to Hild, one of the Valkyries, plus "ting", a meeting for judgment. This poem is not one of the oldest, being written in 1830 by a native of the Faeroes. There are at least three different tunes to this poem, they can all be sung simultaneously because they harmonise. Each verse ends with a chorus. The chorus for one of the tunes is as follows:



Dan - sen gly - de i halli, dans de i ring!

(Dance records in the hall, dance we now in a ring!)



glæde ri - de No-rags menn til Hild - arting.

(gladly ride Norway's men to the battle test.)

Formation: Line of dancers, leader on L. Each person puts his R hand over the forearm of the person to his R, and grasps the hand, palm-to-palm. Hold hands at shoulder height.

Steps: Step-step, step-balance, step-balance, - (on cts. 1-6).
Step L on L foot; close R to L; Step L on L foot and balance;
Step on R foot and balance. Repeat ad infinitum.

There are three variations on this step, each a degree more exuberant.