

Wiwat z Posadowa

Pronunciation: VEE-vaht spoh-sah-DOH-vah

Record: ZM-46729 "Tańce ludowe z Polski - Volume 2" (Folk Dances from Poland), side B, band 6, available from Ada Dziewanowska.

There are several dances from Wielkopolska, in the western part of Poland, called wiwat. Wiwat is a polonized Latin word vivat which means "hail," or "long live." Many Latin words have been incorporated into the Polish language from the Middle Ages, when Latin, because of the Church, was almost an international language. The fact that a Latin word has been used to name these dances proves their ancient origin. The music for the wiwats is written either in 2/4 and 2/8 time or in 3/4 and 3/8 time. The dances usually include a walking or slow running step and often a pivot. They traditionally are the first dance at a wedding reception in Wielkopolska. The tune is often chosen by the best man, or someone else from the wedding party, who leads the orchestra into the song by singing the first stanza in front of them. Usually some younger and bolder couples will encourage the others by starting the dance. Sometimes partners dance with the man holding a bottle of wódka [VOOT-kah] and the woman waving a handkerchief. At times men do it alone, but it then acquires a more show-off character and would more likely be done during a break in the general dancing.

The wiwat presented here, written in 2/4 time, comes from Posadowo, hence it is called "z Posadowa." This village is situated south of Poznań in a region whose old name was Biskupizna [bee-skoo-PEEZ-nah], which means property of the bishop. Since the beginning of the XIII century this province was the property of the Poznań bishop, who had his summer residence in Krobia. Wiwat z Posadowa is typical of the wiwats.

Formation:

Cpls around the circle in social dance pos, M's back to ctr, arms of the joined hands (M-L, W-R) extended at shldr level, M's hand on top and outside of W's; ptrs turn 45° twd LOD. Beg each Fig M-L, W-R ft.

PATTERN

Mel. Measures

INTRODUCTION

1-2 No action.

I. MOVE IN LOD

A 1-8 With knees slightly bent move smoothly and quickly in LOD with 16 steps.

(cont.)



Dzierżacki costume: the unmarried girl's lace and tulle bonnet.

Mel. Measures

II. SPIN IN PLACE

- M: continue holding W's R hand and place her palm on your L hip, ptrs fully facing each other, M's back to LOD.
B 1-8 With 16 smooth steps dance 4 full CW turns in place, end M facing RLOD. (Note: In Wielkopolska [vyehl-koh-POHL-skah] this pivot is called "okroczak" [oh-KROH-chahk] - to step around somebody.)

III. MOVE IN RLOD

- A 1-8 In shldr/shldr pos (arms rounded, M supports W's arms) with 16 smooth steps dance in RLOD, M moving fwd, W bkwd.

IV. SPIN IN PLACE

- B 1-8 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig II).

Assume the orig pos and repeat the whole dance 2 more times (3 times in all).



Embroidery on tulle.

Dance introduced in May 1978, at the Buffalo Gap International Folk Dance Camp in Capon Bridge, W.Va, 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.