

ALEKOKI
(Hawaiian Puili (stick) Dance)

Most Hawaiian dances tell a story, each movement having a specific meaning. This one is of two lovers under a waterfall. The M gives the W flowers which she throws into the water and watches float downstream. This is a fun dance, and if there is more to the story, the teacher hesitated to say; perhaps it is a little risqué.

Pronunciation: ah-leh-KOH-kee

Source: Taught by Miriam Lidster at Folk Dance Camp in 1956; she learned it from Sally Phillips Angove.

Record: Alekoki - National, 4563 B (45 rpm);
Bell, LKS 222. 4/4 meter

Formation and Styling: The entire dance is performed on the knees. Dancers face a common front. It may be done in cpls, in which case ptrs face each other and strike ptr's stick during vamp and break, instead of floor. Puili is held in R hand and is hit on the part cut into strips, which makes a pleasing sound. The arm motions are flowing, the body may bend gracefully above the waist.

MeasPatternINTRODUCTION.

1-10 Dance starts when singing starts.

FIGURE I. VAMP.

- 1 Hit inner L wrist (ct 1); hit floor (ct 2); hit back of L wrist (ct 3); hit floor (ct 4). L arm moves across to R as vamp is executed.
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1, bringing L hand to L side to start.

WATERS

- 3 Hit back of L wrist (cts 1,2,&3) as L hand moves across in front of body to R side; hit R shldr (ct 4).
- 4 Repeat action of meas 3; L hand moves across in front of body to L side (cts 1,2,&3).
- 5-6 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Vamp).

MOUNTAINS

- 7 L hand is held high up to L as dancer rises up on knees (ct 1); hit back of L wrist (ct 2); hit R shldr (ct 3); move L hand high up to R and hit back of L wrist (ct &); hit R shldr and return to sitting pos (ct 4).
- 8 Repeat action of meas 7.
- 1-8 Repeat action of meas 1-8.
- (repeated)

BREAK

- 9 Hit L shldr (ct 1); hit floor (ct 2); hit R shldr (ct 3); hit floor (ct 4).
- 10 Hit L shldr (ct 1); hit floor (ct 2); hit floor with butt of puili (ct 3); hold (ct 4).

ALEKOKI (continued)FIGURE IV. BODY.

1 With the R arm held high, hold the puili with the cut end pointing downward and circle head CCW (cts 1,2,3,4).

FLOWERS.

2 Hit palm of L hand (ct 1); hit back of L wrist (ct 2); repeat (cts 3,4).

3 Repeat action of meas 2 (Fig. IV.)

VAMP.

4-5 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig. I).

WATERFALL.

6 Rise up on knees, hold L hand very high and gradually bring it down twd body while hitting L wrist (cts 1,2,&3); hit R shldr (ct 4).

7 Repeat action of meas 6 (Fig. IV); start with L hand held high to R.

VAMP.

8 Repeat action of meas 1 only of Fig. I.

1-8 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig. IV).

(repeated)

BREAK.

9-10 Repeat action of meas 9-10 (Fig. I).

FIGURE V. VAMP.

1-2 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig. I).

DIAMONDS

3 Extend L hand to L and hit back of L hand (ct 1); hold (ct 2); hit L hand again (ct 3); hit R shldr (ct 4).

4 Hit L hand (ct 1); hit R shldr (ct 2); extend L hand to R and hit L hand (ct 3); hit R shldr (ct 4).

VAMP.

5-6 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig. I).

WATERS.

7-8 Repeat action of meas 3-4 (Fig. I).

1-8 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig. V).

(repeated)

BREAK.

9 Hit L shldr (ct 1); hit floor (ct 2); hit R shldr (ct 3); hit floor (ct 4).

10 Hit L shldr (ct 1); hit floor with butt end of stick (ct 2); sit slightly fwd on knees and place stick across top of L hand (cts 3,4).

Presented by Grace Nicholes

ALEKOKI (continued)

- FIGURE II. VAMP.
1-2 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig. I).
- HAND-ELBOW.
3 Arms outstretched to L, hit L hand (ct 1); hit R shldr (ct 2); bend L arm (palm down and parallel to L shldr), hit L elbow (ct 3); hit R shldr (ct 4).
4 Repeat action of meas 3 (Fig. II). Start with arms outstretched to R; on ct 3 bend L arm so palm is down and elbow pointing to the R.
5-6 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig. I).
- HESITATION.
7 Hit L wrist (ct 1); hold (ct 2); bend L arm bringing hand close to body (palm may be up or down) (ct 3); hit R shldr (ct 4).
8 Repeat action of meas 7 (Fig. II). Start with L hand outstretched to R; on ct 3 bend L arm bringing it across body, fingers pointing to the R.
1-8 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig. II).
(repeated)
- BREAK.
9-10 Repeat action of meas 9-10 (Fig. I).
- FIGURE III. MUSICAL INTERLUDE (no singing)
VAMP
1-2 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig. I).
- FLOOR FANS.
3 Hit floor on L side (ct 1); hit floor on R side (ct 2); repeat (cts 3,4).
4 Repeat action of meas 3 (Fig. III). (Hips move in opposition to puili, shldrs stationary.)
- VAMP.
5-6 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig. I).
- SHOULDER FANS.
7 Hit L shldr (shldr moves with a fwd thrust to meet puili) (ct 1); hit R shldr (with a fwd thrust) (ct 2); repeat (cts 3,4).
8 Repeat action of meas 7 (Fig. III). There is no hip movement in this Fig.
- VAMP.
9-10 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig. I).