

Fishermen's Dance

Arr. by Margaret Midelfort

FISHERMEN'S DANCE

The East Prussian name for this dance is "Nickeltanz", named for "Nickelmann", a jovial mystic figure of the sea. Playful gaiety is here combined with the serene, unaltered rhythm of the waves.

Starting position: Three couples join hands in a circle. Each boy holds a handkerchief by one corner in his right hand.

Meas. 1-8 (with repetition) **CIRCLE** to the left and to the right with large swinging steps. During the last measures the three couples take the following positions:

○ ○ < —girls
 > < < —boys
 1. 2. 3.
 head-middle-foot

The first boy changes his handkerchief from the right to the left hand. All girls grasp the opposite corner of their partners handkerchiefs with their inner hands.

Meas. 9-12 (with repetition) **WAVES**. All couples move forward with small running steps. The "head" goes under the door formed by the raised arms of the "middle" and immediately after forms the door for the "foot" to go under. When arriving at the "head" or the "foot", girl and boy turn half outward around and grasp the handkerchief with the opposite hands. The door is always in the middle. The movement ends in the same position as described for measure 8.

Remember that the dance is constantly flowing and that the waves particularly must be one smooth movement. The down movement has a jump-like accent.

Meas. 1-8 **LITTLE WINDOW**. All boys do "about face" and grasp the handkerchief with the other hands. Partners press elbows of the inner arms together and pull the handkerchief straight. Thus they form a small triangular window through which they look at each other. They move forward around with small walking steps.

Meas. 1-8 (repetition) Change arms and direction.

Meas. 9-12 (with repetition) **WAVES** as before.

Meas. 1-8 **LARGE WINDOW**. All boys do "about face". Partners hook inner arms, grasp the handkerchief with the outer hands and lift the outer arms to form the large window. They swing forward around and look at each other.

Meas. 1-8 (repetition) Change arms and direction.

Meas. 9-12 (with repetition) **WAVES** as before.

Meas. 1-8 (with repetition) **END CIRCLE**. Form circle as in starting position. Circle to the left and then to the right with hopsteps.