

# BOŚKANY

Pronunciation: bosh-KAH-nih

Record: ZM-40591 "Tańce ludowe z Polski" (Folk Dances from Poland), side A, band 9, available from Ada Dziewanowska.

Boškany is a party waltz mixer ("walcerek" or "waloszek" = little waltz). Several European countries have their flirting party dances during which one person is given the opportunity to choose a partner from among the other participants: the Slovenian "Polster tanc" and "Marko skače," or the Hungarian "Párválasztó" and "Sodro, sodro." The most popular Polish one is danced while singing without accompaniment the song "Mam chusteczkę haftowaną" ("I Have An Embroidered Handkerchief"). Every Polish child knows it too, as there is a children's version of the dance. Boškany is a regional version of this game from Śląsk (Silesia) in southwestern Poland, where this dance is done to this popular folk tune. The name of the dance derives from the verb "boškać," which in Silesian "gwara" (peasant talk) means "to kiss."

Formation: Join hands in a single circle, hands held shoulder high. One person holding a white handkerchief is inside the ring. If the circle is quite large and one wants the game to move faster or one wants to add more excitement to the game, the dance may be done with 1 man and 1 woman, or with more than one couple, inside the ring.

## Measures

## PATTERN

### PART I - Melody A

- 1-15 All face LOD and starting with R ft move CCW with 15 step-together-hold patterns.
- 16 Two stamps (LR) in place facing ctr.  
Meanwhile, the person(s) inside the ring chooses someone of the opp sex by spreading the handkerchief in front of him/her; the chosen person steps into ctr of circle, the cpl kneels on the handkerchief and they hug. Note: The choosing person should do a certain amount of teasing by playing with the handkerchief, or pretending that he/she has already chosen someone but then changing his/her mind, etc. The choosing and the hugging should, however, be done during the 16 meas of mel A; if there is no more time left the choosing person may just drop the handkerchief in front of the chosen person, who steps into ctr of circle and picks it up.

### PART II - Melody B

- 1-15 All face RLOD and starting with L ft move CW with 15 waltz-like, light running steps.
- 16 Two stamps (RL) in place facing ctr.  
Meanwhile, the inner cpl(s) stands up and waltzes within the circle, moving CCW.

The previously choosing person(s) joins the circle, the chosen person(s) remains inside the ring holding the handkerchief(s) and the dance is repeated 5 more times. To prolong the game the selection may be played again.



Dance introduced in 1975, at a workshop with the University of Wisconsin "Folk Dance Unlimited" club, by Ada Dziewanowska, who learned it in Cieszyn, Poland, from Janina Marcinkowa, the noted Silesian folklorist. Do not reproduce these directions without Ada's permission: 41 Katherine Road, Watertown, Mass. 02172, tel. (617)923-9061.