

GOJA (GOJA PLES)

Notes by Dick Crum for *žviLA TAMBURA '93*

Goja or *Goja ples* (from Hungarian *Gólyatánc*, 'stork dance') was a couple dance done in the Youngstown-Canton-Massillon (Ohio) area. The steel towns of northeastern Ohio had large Hungarian immigrant populations, and it is possible that the dance was learned there through contact with them.

The fact that its melody is identical to that of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* ("Mine eyes have seen the glory...." and "Glory, glory, hallelujah...") sparked some interest in *Goja* as a novelty, and undoubtedly contributed to its brief popularity.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DANCE

Formation Couples scattered randomly about the dance floor. "Varsouvienne position": man behind woman and slightly to her left, their hands joined just above her shoulders (L hand in L hand, R hand in R hand).

Meter 4/4

Meas Count

- | | | |
|---|-----|--|
| 1 | 1 | Both step Lft diagonally forward/L. |
| | 2 | Both close Rft to Lft, taking weight on Rft. |
| | 3 | Both step Lft diagonally forward/L. |
| | 4 | Pause. |
| 2 | 1 | Both step Rft diagonally forward/R. |
| | 2 | Both close Lft to Rft, taking weight on Lft. |
| | 3 | Both step Rft diagonally forward/R. |
| | 4 | Pause. |
| 3 | 1 | Man stands still, W turns slightly L in place to look at him over her L shoulder. |
| | 2 | Pause. |
| | 3 | Man stands still, W turns slightly R in place to look at him over her R shoulder. |
| | 4 | Pause. |
| 4 | 1-4 | Partners release L hands and W turns one full turn L (counterclockwise) in place under joined R hands with 4 steps: Lft, Rft, Lft, Rft. Partners rejoin L hands in preparation for repeat of dance from beginning. |