

KAAKURI

Finland

General Background: Kaakuri (KAAAK-KOO-REE) is the Finnish name for a grayish water bird very much like our Red Throated Loon, and this dance from the SW Karelian parish of Parrikala supposedly imitates the bobbing motion of this bird on the waves. The dance spread as far as central Sweden where it was often called Finsk or Finak (i.e. Finnish) Tantoli.

Music: A very nice recording is on an LP, Sumen Nuorison Little SNL-41. Other records include Rythmi RTLP (or RTEP) 7510 and a Swedish orchestra on Aqua Viking V 110, "Tantoli".

Formation: A circle of couples all facing in a CCW direction with the women to the right of their partners. Partners assume either of the following holds to start the dance.

A) Man places Right hand around partner's waist, woman places L hand on man's R shoulder. Free hands are placed on hip in a fist.

b) Assume same position as in (a) but free hands as in closed waltz position.

The dance:

Part I: a) Beginning with outside feet, couples dance two (2) step-hops forward (1-2), after which they turn a full turn CW with two more step-hops (3-4), This pattern is repeated 3 more times (5-8, (1-8).

Part I: b) Dance one schottische step forward, starting with outside feet (9-10). Dance one schottische step backwards, beginning on inside feet (11-12). Then turn as a couple one full turn CW in four step-hops (13-16), assuming closed waltz position. Part I: b is then repeated

Part II: a) Partners side step four times, (man starts on L foot, lady on R foot) in CCW direction around the dance floor (1-4). Then do four more side steps in the opposite direction (CW) (5-8). Repeat **Part II: a.** (1-8)

Part II: b) Repeat pattern of **Part I: b).** (9-16, 9-16)

Part III: a) Dancers place heel of outside foot forward, then touch toe of same foot quite far back, bending the knee of the inside leg somewhat and leaning slightly forward (1-2). Then do three (3) light running steps forward, starting on outside foot (3-4). Repeat this pattern beginning on the inside foot (5-8). Then repeat all of **Part III: a)** one more time (1-8)

Part III: b) Repeat pattern of part I.b. (9-16, 9-16)

Part IV: a) Starting on the outside foot dance one schottische step forward, then one backward (1-4). Lift the outside foot with the knee bent and "paw" the floor with the lower leg of the outside foot twice, moving the outside foot backwards two times (5-6). Tap the toe of the outside foot three times slightly behind the place where dancers are standing (7-8). Repeat this pattern again (1-8).

Part IV: b) Take shoulder-waist position and turn as a couple around in CW direction while moving around the floor in CCW direction with 16 step-hops.

The first two parts of the dance date from the latter part of the last (19th) century. The latter two parts are of more recent origin.

— Presented by Fred & Linda Aalto

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