

Oaks

K O S E D E R

Pronunciation: koh-seh-dehr

Record: DR-8310 available from Ađa Dziewanowska.

Couple dance in 2/4 time from Kaszuby, in Pomorze (Pomerania), the Baltic Sea region, Poland's window on the maritime world. In their music, dances and costumes the Kaszuby people have assimilated into the native Slavic elements influences from other nations on the Baltic, the Germans and the Scandinavians. Like the Swedes the men wear yellow trousers. The women ornament their costumes with embroidery done with a golden thread and wear necklaces made of amber, which is plentiful on the Baltic shores. The Kaszuby people make their living from farming, cattle breeding and fishing.

The name of the dance koseder derives either from the word kosić (to mow), as this dance might have been done in the fields during harvesting, or from the word na ukos (diagonally), as there is a diagonal movement of the leg in the step. The Kaszuby people consider koseder as their most representative dance. The melody has two parts: "A" (koseder step) and "B" (polka step).

Starting Position: Circle of couples, facing LOD, Woman in front of Man; hands on own hips (fingers and elbows forward).

Measures

1-4 Four measures of introduction.

FIGURE I (Melody A)

- 1 All start with Lft step-together-step.
- 2 (Ct 1) hop on Lft, bringing Rft in front of L ankle;  
(ct 2) leap in place onto Rft, slightly back, cut with Lft across R ankle, body hinges strongly forward in the same movement.
- 3-8 Repeat pattern of Meas. 1-2 three more times.  
Music and dance pattern are repeated.



FIGURE II (Melody B)

- All join hands in a ring, moving in LOD, with a polka step with a "kniks":
- 1 (Ct 1) step Lft, (ct 2) R together, (ct 3) step Lft with a quick vertical drop ("kniks"), free Rft flicks up in back.
  - 2 Same pattern as Meas. 1, with opposite footwork.
  - 3-8 Repeat pattern of Meas. 1-2 three more times, changing the direction with the last three steps.  
Music is repeated and dance pattern is repeated moving in RLOD; with last three steps, while changing the direction to LOD, circle breaks into couples holding inside hands; outside hands on own hips.

FIGURE III (Melody A)

- 1-8 Repeat Figure I in this new formation.  
Music and dance pattern are repeated.



(cont.)

MeasuresFIGURE IV (Melody B)

Couples join hands in skater's position.

- 1-8 Repeat Figure II; change the direction with last 3 steps of Meas. 8 by making a half turn (Man CW, Woman CCW).  
Music is repeated and dance pattern is repeated moving RLOD; Man's half a turn will be now CCW, Woman's CW.

FIGURE V (Melody A)

- 1-8 Repeat Figure I in skater's position.  
Music and dance pattern are repeated, only instead of last hop and leap in Meas. 8, Woman does two stamps in place (RL) to have her Rft ready to do the next figure.

FIGURE VI (Melody B)

Arms joined in ballroom position couples dance around the room the characteristic (without hopping) Kaszuby polka:

- 1 (Ct 1) Man steps Lft LOD, dipping joined hands with side body bend from waist to L; (ct "and") step R together, turning CW; (ct 2) step on Lft continuing turn CW to complete half turn. Woman does same pattern with opposite footwork.  
2 Same pattern as in Meas. 1 with opposite footwork to complete the turn, with joined hands up for side body bend to R, also in LOD.  
3-8 Repeat pattern of Meas. 1-2 three more times.  
Music and dance pattern are repeated, only instead of the last polka step Woman does two stamps (LR) facing RLOD; Man faces her.

FIGURE VII (Melody A)

- 1-8 With crossed hands joined, couple repeats Figure I, moving LOD, Man forward and Woman backward; instead of dance pattern of ct 2 of Meas. 2, 4, 6, and 8 they flip their straight L legs diagonally to their L sides, without the body hinging.  
Music is repeated and dance pattern is repeated in opposite direction (Man moving backward, and Woman forward). On Meas. 8 Woman does two stamps (RL).

FIGURE VIII (Melody B)

- 1-8 Same as Figure VI.  
Music and dance pattern are repeated; both end with a polka step.

Dance introduced in 1971 by Ada and Jaś Dziewanowski, who learned it in Tuchola, Poland, from Kazimierz Przybylski, an expert Kaszuby dancer. Notes prepared with assistance of Conny Taylor. Please do not reproduce them without Ada's permission: 41 Katherine Road, Watertown, Mass. 02172, tel. (617) 923-9061.