

Presented by Morley Leyton &
Monique Legaré

KUJAWIAK WESELNY
Poland

The Kujawiak is a slow romantic dance in 3/4 time, that originated in the Kujawy Region, the birthplace of Chopin, west of Warsaw and was adopted by the gentry to become one of the five National Dances (Tańc Narodowy) - Kujawiak, Oberek, Polonez, Mazur and Krakowiak. All National Dances have many appropriate melodies (often specially composed) and each has it's own acceptable dance vocabulary. At thier highest popularity in the XIX century they were choreographed and taught by dancing masters - you had to learn the Mazur or Krakowiak that was to be danced at next week's ball. Only the Oberek maintained it's improvisational nature sometimes. Therefore, it was (and is) normal for National Dances to be choreographed.

This recording has a Kujawiak melody with a 24 measure Oberek chorus. Authentic steps were arranged for this music by Morely Leyton in 1963.

Remember: The Kujawiak is done as if you and your partner are the only people there.

PRONUNCIATION: Koo-yah-v-ahk Ve-sel-nee

RECORD: From the Mountains, From the Valleys, LTN 1000 or
BR 1000, Side 1, Band 7

FORMATION: Cpls in a circle, face LOD, M inside, W outside, fists
on hips, thumbs back, elbows fwd.

METER: 3/4

PATTERN

Meas Cts

- PART I: DIAMOND PATTERN IN LOD
- 1 With 3 steps, beginning with outside ft, move diag away from ptr.
- 2 1 Close inside ft to outside ft.
2 Hold.
3 Click heels.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and moving diag twd ptr.
- 5-7 Repeat meas 1-3 (away, click, tog).
- 8 Repeat meas 4 (close, click), but end slightly in front of ptr, R hip to R hip, hips and shldrs parallel, M back to ctr, W facing ctr.
- 9-16 Both beg L with every odd-numbered meas, and repeat ftwk of meas 1-2 (LRL, close, hold, click//repeat) in this pos 4 times in all.

Continued...

NOTE: Throughout this sequence maintain constant orientation (keep hips and shldr parallel and keep distance the same) with ptr while turning CW about the ctr of an imaginary circle at the point you start. The only constraint is that M ends up facing LOD and W face RLOD and ptr.

ARMS:

- 9-12 Facing ptr, both reach with R arm as if to put it around ptrs R hip, but do not touch. Keep L hand extended to side slightly below horizontal, palm fwd.
- 13-14 Both place R hand around ptrs waist and slowly raise L hand to a 45° above horizontal.
- 15-16 Slowly raise arms until hands join overhead and form an arch.

PART II: CHORUS

Oberek, shldr-waist pos, M facing LOD, W RLOD, bend fwd slightly from waist.

- 1-4 Do 4 basic Oberek steps in LOD, beg M R, W L, both bend fwd from waist with knees bent, M move fwd, W bkwd. Head may shake from side to side.
- 5 1 Straighten, step MR, WL.) Make 1/4 or 1/2 turn CW without
 2 Hold.) traveling. Heels click nat-
 3 Hop, MR, WR) urally on ct 3.
- 6 Repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk continuing to turn CW.
- 7-8 Repeat meas 5-6.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.
- 17-24 In open pos, MR arm around ptrs waist, free hands or fists on hips or joined in front with ptr and rounded, do 8 basic Oberek steps turning CW, starting on inside ft (MR, WL).

Hand hold is ad lib and depends on which variation will be done.

VARIATION I: (Meas 23-24)

WL arm under MR arm. Make a fist and point elbow straight down. Outside hands free or on hips

MEN:

- 23 1 Step R in front of ptr.
 2 Kick L fwd and high.
 3 R follows L into air leaping as high as possible. Make 1/2 turn in air.
- 24 1 Land on L as near to ptr as possible
 2 Drop to R knee and brace R arm to help ptr stop and not fall.
 3 Hold.

continued...

WOMEN:

- 23 Do 1 basic Oberek step CW, slowing down.
- 24 1-3 Come to a complete halt. Remain upright with bent knees.

NOTE: Cts are not exact except for preparation to take off on ct 1, meas 23.

VARIATION II: (Meas 23-24)

WL hand under MR arm, palm up and thumb back, outside hands joined.

MEN:

- 23 1 Step R in front of ptr.
- 2 Jump up straight
- 3 Bring knees tog in front
- 24 1 Land on L ft and R knee.

WOMEN:

- 23-24 Repeat Var. I, except for L hand hold.

BRIDGE

6 notes. Face LOD, take skating pos, MR over.

PART III: W IN FRONT OF M

- 1 M clicks R ft (ct 1); step R to R (ct 2); close L to R (ct 3). Keep hands joined and raise arms while M passes behind ptr. W use opp ftwk.
- 2 Do 1 basic Oberek step in place (M-RLR, W-LRL) and lower hands.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction. W again passes in front.
- 5-7 W beg L and do 9 smooth steps circling once CCW around ptr; M remain in place, keep R hand down as long as possible (6 cts) and leads ptr around himself with L hand; at end of phrases both hands are raised and tog. DO NOT let go of hands and follow ptr with eyes throughout this sequence.
- 8 W turns once CCW in place; M brings hands down to R side, up around and into orig skating pos.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

REPEAT PART II: CHORUS

BRIDGE

6 cts. Face ptr, hands on hips, M with back to ctr, W facing M.

PART IV: AWAY FROM PTR, TWD PTR

- 1 1 M & W on same ft, hop bkwd on R extending L leg straight back - arms reach twd ptr, palms down, and rotate hands to palms up.
- 2 Step L bkwd.
- 3 Close R to L

Continued...

- 2 Repeat meas 1.
3 Repeat meas 1, except - step R fwd (ót 3).
4 1-3 Stepping L,R, close L to R without wt, walk twd ptr.
Bring arms up, around, and put hands on hips.
5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, once more (2 times in all).
9-16 Repeat meas 9-16, Part I (walk around w/ arch)

REPEAT PART II: CHORUS

This is the end, so finish with a flourish.