

Masurka från Göteborg

Sweden

Source

This dance was recorded by Henry Sjöberg, in Gothenburg, over the past decade, and learned by Jim LaVita in Stockholm, in June, 1984. It is intimately related to a much harder dance called "Segla", and the basic step is used in a whole family of dances by people, in Gothenburg, who are part of the dockworkers' community.

Music

Any ^{or} masurka (or even hambo) tune from the region around Gothenburg.

HoldTurn:

Very close (bodies touching) hold, with each party's left arm over his partner's right arm. Elbows point nearly straight down.

Dance can also begin with cpls facing and joining both hands and swaying and several times and then proceeding as noted in meas. 3-4

(Bottom paragraph - w turn under)

This was only done at beg of dance.

StepsFigure (measures 1-4):

M and W face each other in circle, M facing LOD, W facing RLOD. M shifts weight from side to side, or stands in place, while W does two small waltz-like steps: R,L,R and L,R,L in two measures.

While releasing the W, M takes her right hand in his left, and turns her once around CW in one measure, under the joined arms. The couple then rejoins on the fourth measure to begin the turn.

Turn (measures 5-8):

M: First measure.

ct 1) step slightly forward with L, as body begins to rotate CCW, ct 2) step to side with R, continuing body rotation, ct 3) as body continues rotating, draw L past R and step on it, so that L ends up pointing in RLOD. The M ends this part facing RLOD.

Second measure.

ct 1) step slightly backwards (that is, in LOD) on R, ct 2) step back onto L heel, or let L heel graze floor,

Continued...

ct 3) pivot on R heel, or ever so slightly on both heels, leaving L free to begin again.

These two measures are repeated once more.

W: First measure.

ct 1) step backwards (that is, in LOD) with R, ct 2) step backwards with L, ct 3) pivot on soles of both feet, leaving L free,

Second measure.

ct 1) step slightly forward with L, as body begins to rotate CCW, ct 2) step to side with R, continuing body rotation, ct 3) as body continues rotating, draw L past R and step on it, so that L is pointing in RLOD. The W ends this part facing RLOD.

Note: This second measure is the same as M's first measure.

Comments

The dancers rotate very much as one unit, and do so very smoothly. There is as little up and down motion as possible, and the rate of rotation is quite uniform. This particular manifestation of the "Segla" family is done to the eight measure phrasing of the masurka music, in the sequence given above.