

MAZURKA FROM ZÁHORIE

SLOVAKIA

Mazurka from Záhorie (MAH-zur-kah from ZA-hor-ee) is a dance from the ethnographic region of Záhorie located in West Slovakia (the area around the capital city of Bratislava). It was popular during the end of the 19th century and especially the period between the two world wars. The dance came to Slovakia via European dancing masters who traveled around teaching such dances as the mazurka, waltz, polka, schottische, and quadrilles. Vonnie R. Brown learned the dance in Slovakia in 1995 from Jano Blaho of Bratislava.

MUSIC: Tape cassette **Dances from Slovakia, Vonnie R. Brown**

FORMATION: Couples in semi-open ballroom dance pos facing LOD. Couples may be in a circle or randomly scattered.

STEPS: Basic mazurka step:
Ftwk is the same for M and W throughout the dance.
Meas 1: Small leap fwd on L ft (ct 1); small step fwd on R ft (ct 2); small step fwd on L ft (ct 3). Meas 2: Repeat above with opp ftwk.
Bodies are held low and a bit fwd during these steps.

METER: 3/4

PATTERN

Meas

INTRODUCTION

1-4 No action.

I. SWAY MOTIF

1-4 Cpls in semi-open dance pos facing LOD. Do four basic mazurka steps fwd.

5 Step on L ft (ft in second pos parallel) and sway slightly to L, turning bodies about a 1/4 turn CW so M has back to LOD, W facing LOD (cts 1-3).

6 Shift wt to R ft (ft in second pos parallel) and sway slightly to R, turning bodies a 1/4 turn CCW so M and W end in orig pos (cts 1-3).

7-8 Turn CW as a cpl once around (M moving fwd, W bkwd) with two basic mazurka steps.

9-12 Repeat meas 5-8.

II. HEEL-TOE MOTIF

1 One basic mazurka step fwd (L,R,L) (cts 1-3).

2 Heel-toe: Touch R heel fwd (ct 1); touch R toe in same place but turn toe slightly inward, heel slightly outward (ct 2); hold (ct 3).

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk (cts 1-3).

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

9-10 Do two basic mazurka steps fwd (L,R,L; R,L,R).

11-12 With two basic mazurka steps M turn W under M L arm and W R arms (releasing M R and W L arms); W turns once around CW to end with cpl in varsouvienne pos facing LOD; W slightly to R of M.

III. STEP-CLOSE, STEP-SWING MOTIF

- 1 Facing LOD in varsouvienne pos, step on L ft sdwd R (ct 1); hold (ct 2); close (step) R ft next to L (ct 3).
- 2 Step on L ft sdwd L (ct 1); swing R ft across L (cts 2-3).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5 Place wt on L ft (ft in second pos parallel) and sway L; M and W R arms drop down slightly, L arms raise slightly, and ptrs turn slightly to look at each other (W looks over her R shldr) (ct 1); hold (cts 2-3).
- 6 Repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk and direction; W looks over her L shldr at M (ct 1); hold (cts 2-3).
- 7-8 With two basic mazurka steps in place, M turn W under M R and W R arms; W turns once around CW in place to end again in varsouvienne pos facing LOD.
- 9-12 Repeat meas 5-8 but on meas 12 W turns 1 1/2 CW to end facing M or RLOD (M faces LOD).

IV. WRAP-UP MOTIF

- 1 Ptrs facing, both hands joined. Step on L ft sdwd L (ct 1); swing R ft across L (cts 2-3).
- 2 Step on R ft sdwd R (ct 1); swing L ft across L (cts 2-3).
- 3-4 Wrap-up: With two basic mazurka steps M turns W under M L and W R arms (M R and W L hands remain joined); M L and W R arm pass over W head so cpl ends in wrap-up pos (M L and W R arm in front of bodies). W turns L (CCW) 1/2 turn so both M and W are facing LOD.
- 5-6 In wrap-up pos, repeat meas 1-2 (step-swing L and step swing R).
- 7-8 Unwrap: With two basic mazurka steps, raise M L and W R arm and W turns under joined arms 1/2 turn CW (R) to end with ptrs facing in orig pos (both hands joined across, M facing LOD, W RLOD).
- 9-10 Repeat meas 1-2 (step-swing L, step-swing R).
- 11-12 With two basic mazurka steps, M turns W as in wrapup in meas 3-4; however, ptrs release hands before assuming wrap-up pos and join together in semi-open pos as at beg of Fig I. M turns W under M L and W R arm and W turns L (CCW) 1/2 around.

Note: On meas 12 of each Fig, dancers may stamp R (ct 1); stamp L, no wt (ct 2); hold (ct 3); rather than doing a basic mazurka step (R,L,R).

DANCE REPEATS FROM THE BEGINNING.
DANCE WILL END WITH FIG I.