

Od Buczka do Buczka

Pronunciation: ohd BOOCH-kah doh BOOCH-kah

Record: "Tańce Śląskie," DR-7167, side A, band 2, available from Ada Dziewanowska.

This is a couple dance in 3/4 time from Upper Silesia in southwestern Poland. It is romantic and a little sad and was done during weddings. In olden times dancers would sing while dancing it. The title comes from the first line of the song (see next page), which goes: "From one beech tree to the next, leaf by leaf; tell me, Johnny, about the wreath, about the green wreath plaited by your girl." The wreath, often part of an unmarried girl's costume, appears very often in Polish folklore. "She lost her wreath" may also mean, "She lost her virginity." At the end of a wedding, there is a ceremony called the "oczepiny" (word derives from the noun czepiec--cap, bonnet), during which the married women take off the bridal wreath from the bride's head and replace it with a bonnet--symbol that she now belongs to the society of married women. This is usually accompanied by special songs and deep sobbing of the bride.

In the following stanzas of the song the bride asks her husband whether he will be kind to her. But he answers, as if warning her that married life is not easy, that she will not have to carry water from the well, as she will have plenty of it in her eyes.

Starting position: Couples in a circle, Man facing CCW, Woman facing him, hands on own hips, fingers forward, thumbs back.

Measures

Pattern

1-4 Introduction.

PART I (Melody A: 8 meas.)

Man holds his arms extended sideways, slightly curved as if to encircle his partner; Woman holds her skirt out at the sides; or either of them crosses arms in front (putting one hand over the other elbow).

1-8 Starting with L ft, with 8 smooth waltz steps, Man moves in LOD (styling point: with L ft he steps diagonally to L and with R ft diagonally to R); starting with R ft backward, Woman moves in LOD with 8 waltz steps turning CW; she does one-half a turn to each measure. Partners end by facing and joining both hands sideways at shoulder height.



PART II (Melody B: 8 meas. played twice)

1 (Ct 1) Man with L ft, Woman with R ft step sideways toward the center of the circle; (cts 2-3) hold while other ft remains touching floor in its place, bodies slightly bend away from the center, while partners look under the joined arms, raising them diagonally toward the center.

2 Repeat action of meas. 1, Part II, with opposite footwork and direction.

3-4 Repeat action of meas. 1-2, Part II.

5-6 Man starting with L ft and Woman with R ft, with 6 even steps partners walk CW around each other, ending with Man facing the outside and Woman the inside of the circle.

7 Couple releases the hold of Man's L and Woman's R hand and with 3 even steps Woman does a full CCW turn under the joined arms, Man while helping partner does the 3 steps in place.

8 Partners resume the hold of both hands and bringing their feet together, slowly bow to each other, Woman bending her knees slightly.



continued...

MeasuresPattern

- 9-10 Man starting L ft, Woman R ft, partners do sideways step-together-step (cts 1, 3, 1) swing across (cts 2-3) in LOD (keeping foot very close to the ground on swing).
- 11-12 Repeat action of meas. 9-10, Part II, with opposite footwork and direction.
- 13-15 Repeat action of meas. 5-7, Part II; however, after the Woman's full CCW turn partners drop the joined hands, she does another full CCW turn and rolls into Man's R arm, as the couple ends in open ballroom position.
- 16 Partners put outside hands on own hips and slowly bow to each other.

PART III (Melody A: 8 meas.)

- 1-2 Partners face LOD, Man starting L ft, Woman R ft, couple moves smoothly in LOD with 6 walking steps.
- 3-4 Opening the outside arms to front, slightly rounded, partners cast off with 6 even steps, Man to L, Woman to R, and end facing RLOD, holding partner in a reversed open ballroom position.
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas. 1-4, Part III, in opposite direction, except end with hands joined as in the beginning of Part II; Man now faces the outside and Woman the inside of the circle.

PART IV (Melody B: 8 meas. played twice)

- 1-6 Repeat action of meas. 1-6, Part II, starting, however, toward LOD.
- 7 Couple releases the hold of Man's L and Woman's R hand; with 3 steps each makes half a CCW turn, Woman moving under the joined arms; couple ends in a back-to-back position, Man facing the center, and Woman the outside of the circle.
- 8 Couple joins the released hands and slowly raises arms to side.
- 9-10 Man starting R ft, Woman L ft, partners do sideways a step-together-step (cts 1, 3, 1) hold (cts 2-3) in LOD (during the "hold" Man's L ft, Woman's R ft remain touching the floor in place).
- 11-12 Repeat action of meas. 9-10, Part IV, with opposite footwork and direction.
- 13 Couple releases the hold of Man's L and Woman's R hand and progressing in LOD with 3 steps each makes half a turn (Man-CW, Woman-CCW) to face each other; couple rejoins the released hands.
- 14 Repeat action of meas. 13, Part IV, with opposite footwork and handhold, still moving in LOD, each completing the full turn started in meas. 13, and resuming the back-to-back position.
- 15 Repeat action of meas. 13, Part IV.
- 16 Partners slowly bow to each other, Woman bending her knees slightly.



SONG

Polish text

Od buczka do buczka po listeczku,
 Powiedz mi, Jasięku, o wianeczku,
 :0 wianeczku, o zielonym,
 Przez twoją dziewczynę uwinionym.:

Pronunciation

Ohd booch-kah doh booch-kah poh lees-tehch-koo
 poh-vyehts mee yah-shehn-koo oh vyah-nehch-koo
 oh vyah-nehch-koo oh zyeh-loh-nym
 pshehz tfoh-yohm jehf-chy-neh oo-vee-nyoh-nym.

Dance introduced in the Fall of 1974 at a workshop with the Cornell University Folk Dancers, by Ada and Jaś Dziewanowski, who learned it in Cieszyn, Poland, from Janina Marcinkowa, a noted Silesian folklorist. Do not reproduce these directions without Ada's permission: 41 Katherine Road, Watertown, Mass. 02172, tel. (617) 923-9061.