

ODESSA MAZUR

(Poland)

- SOURCE:** The figures used in this dance were done by a Polish group at the World's Fair at San Francisco's Treasure Island. They were taught to Madelynn Greene, who arranged them to fit this record to be used as an exhibition dance for sets of four couples. There are many Mazur figures, just as we have many Square exhibition dances. It should be done vigorously, accurately, but not so stylized that it loses its feeling of vitality and "folk dancing".
- MUSIC:** Imperial "Mazur", No. 1206 (78 rpm); National 4001, (78 rpm); Imperial 6204. (45 rpm).
- FORMATION:** Circle of no more than 8 couples, all facing CCW, W on R od M, inside arms extended slightly fwd, chest high, elbows bent. W forearm resting lightly on M, fingers clasped in his hand. Outside fist on hips.
- STEPS:** Mazur Step: An accented running step to 3/4 time. Accent the first beat of each measure by bending the supporting knee slightly and touching the opposite heel beside the supporting foot... I e.. Step fwd on L, bending L knee slightly (ct 1), the foot is flat (not just the ball of the foot), step on R heel beside L or slightly in front of it (ct and), roll weight from heel to ball of foot (ct 2), step fwd on L (ct 3). The feet are parallel and close to the floor. The dip and rise are from the bending of the knees. Repeat starting R.
- According to Madelynn Greene, the above step is more authentic. When the dance was first taught the following step was used and is therefore more familiar to California folk dancers:
- Mazur step, an accented running step to 3/4 time. Accent the first beat with a heavy step, bringing the opposite foot up sharply in back with a knee bend. On cts 2 and 3 the steps are small and unaccented.
- Mazur Turn: Partners face each other, right hips adjacent, R arm around partner's waist, L hands high; 2 Mazur steps turning CW, starting M L, W R. Reverse, placing L arm at partner's waist, R arm high, turn CCW with 2 Mazur steps.
- Step-close with heel clicks: Starting M L, W R, step to side (ct 1), close opposite foot to leading foot (ct 2), jump on supporting foot, clicking heels together in air (ct 3).

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Music 3/4

PATTERN

Measures

- 1-2 Introduction, Stand in Formation
- I Balance and Click Steps
- 1-4 a. Progressing fwd in LCD with 4 Mazur steps (starting M L, W R), balance away from each other, pushing joined hands fwd and turning slightly back to back (ct 1). Balance toward each other, bringing arms back shoulder high, bending elbows again (ct 2). Arms are kept shoulder high throughout step. Outside fists on hips. Repeat balance away and together.
- 5-8 b. Face partners, release inside hands and sweep them down between ptrns and up, finishing with M R, W L, hands curved over head, outside fists remain on hips. At the same time take 4 step-close with heel click steps in LCD.
- 9-12 c. Mazur turn CW (2 Mazur steps). Reverse turn CCW (2 Mazur turns).
- 13-24 Repeat Fig. I, meas 1-12.
- II Circle Right and Left
- 1-4 a. All join hands in single circle, facing R. Circle CCW with 4 Mazur steps, starting M L, W R.
- 5-8 b. W turn toward partners, Mazur turn.
- 9-12 c. Repeat Fig. II a, facing L and progressing CW.
- 13-16 d. M turn toward partners, Mazur turn.
- III Double Circle
- 1-4 a. All face center, with 4 Mazur steps W move forward forming small circle by linking arms at the elbows, fist on hips. If each W puts her R arm through the L elbow of the adjacent W, it avoids confusion. At the same time the M move in with 4 Mazur steps to join hands, arms extended to form the outer circle.
- 5-8 b. M circle L, W circle R with 3 Mazur steps, accent last measure with 2 stamps.
- 9-12 c. Repeat Fig. III b, reversing direction, M circle R, W circle L.
- 1-2 Weaving the Basket
On two chorded measures partners should be in place, W on R of M. W slide hands down, joining them to form a circle, M lift joined hands over W heads, forming a basket.

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IV The Basket

- 1-8 a. Circle CW 7 Mazur steps all starting with L foot. Accent 8th meas with 2 stamps.
- 9-16 b. Circle CCW 7 Mazur steps starting with R, 2 stamps on 16th meas.

V Forming Lines

The next two figures are done with M in one line, W in line facing partners, in groups of 4 couples. Couples number CW around circle 1,2,3,4. For festival dancing, the two couples with backs nearest the music break the circle and swing back into line, all facing the music. For an exhibition, the couples with backs to the audience break the circle and all move into a line facing the audience.

- 1-8 a. W of couple 1 and M of last couple release hands, and join them with own partners so all dancers are in a chain. The end couples move backward and the center couples slightly forward with 8 Mazur steps to form a straight line.
- 9-12 b. Release hands, M dance forward with 4 Mazur steps, turning to face partners on the last meas. Arms are crossed on chest. W turn CW in place, L hand on hip, R hand high. The lines should be 6 or 8 ft. apart with a space between each group of 4 couples.

VI Solos

Each couple does a solo while the other couples in the lines keep time with small Mazur steps in place, clapping their hands. M clap on the first beat, W on 2 and 3. This is supposed to be an impromptu step to show the skill of the dancers, however four figures are suggested and most used by dancers in California.

a. Couple No. 1 Solo

- 14
1-4 Couple No. 1 in each group dances down the center of the set with 4 Mazurka steps, facing each other, M L, W R hands high, other fist on hip.
- 5-8 2 Mazur steps backing even with lines, both fists on hips, elbows slightly forward. Dance toward each other 2 Mazur steps.
- 9-12 Mazur turn at foot of group of four.
- 13-16 Couple 1 returns to place with 4 Mazur steps, M going up outside of M line, W outside W line.

b. Couple No. 4 Solo

- While couple 1 returns to place, couple 4 dances 4 Mazur steps up the center of the lines with inside hands joined, balance away, together, away together.
- 17-20 Mazur turn at head of sets.

c. Couple No. 2 Solo

- 21-24 Couple 4 returns to own place with 4 Mazur steps, each going down outside of respective lines.
- While couple 4 returns to place, couple 2 dances down the center of the set with 4 step-close heel clicks.
- 25-28 Couple 2 does Mazur turn at foot of set.

d. Couple No. 3 Solo

- 29-32 Couple 2 returns to place with 4 Mazur steps, dancing up the outside of respective lines.
- While couple 2 returns to place, couple 3 dances up the center of the set with inside hands joined, free hands on hips, balance away together, 2 Mazur steps. W turns R under her partners R hand and faces him.

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VI Solos (continued)

- 33-36 Couple 3 does Mazur turn at head of set.
37-40 Couple 3 returns to place with 4 Mazur steps, outside respective lines.

VII The Tunnel

- On two chaorded measures all face the head of the set, inside hands joined high.
1-16 M of head couple leads the line under the tunnel made by the joined hands. He turns R under his R arm, L fist on hip, R hand joined with partner's L. W of head couple takes the L hand of the next M in her R, drawing him after into the tunnel. Each W does this in turn. All dance forward with Mazur steps, and then join the line. When the leading man reaches the end of the tunnel, he leads the line CW into a circle. He must time his steps to join hands with the last W on the 16th measure.

VIII Modified Pas-de-basque

- 1-12 Release hands in circle, partners face CCW in Varsouvienne position, hands joined high. Take 12 pas-de-basques keeping feet close to floor. Both start with R foot so first pas-de-basque is away from center of circle.

IX Women's Star

- 1-8 With 3 Mazur steps W dance CW toward center of circle into an open R hand star, accent 4th meas. with 2 stamps (R arms extended slightly above shoulder high, hands not quite touching). With 4 Mazur steps reverse with an open L hand star. While W spiral into circle and out, M dance bwd with 3 Mazur steps, 2 stamps on 4th. Forward with 4 Mazur steps, arms crossed high on chest.
9-12 Meet partners and Mazur turn.

X Men's Star

- 1-12 The M spiral CW toward center of circle to form an open R hand star, 7 Mazur steps and 2 stamps. Reverse and form open L hand star and return to partner with 4 Mazur steps.
W dance bwd with 7 Mazur steps, moving arms gracefully first toward partners, then bwd toward waist. On meas 8 place both fists on hips and stamp twice. Move forward, moving arms alternately forward and back, 4 Mazur steps.
13-16 Turn partner 4 Mazur steps to R. Do not reverse.

XI Polka-Mazurka—Kneel and Pose

- 1-4 Partners in open pos, facing CCW, inside hands joined, outside fists on hips. 2 Mazur steps balancing away from each other and toward each other. With 2 Mazur steps W turns R under joined hands to finish facing partner, both hands joined.
5-8 4 Mazur steps moving LDM M forward, W backward.
9-12 M kneels on L knee and leads girl around him CCW holding her L hand in his R. Girl does 3 Mazur steps to circle M, on 4th meas she turns and sits on M R knee. R hands joined at W R hip, both L hands held high with a shout.