

Rasa Sayang

(Malaysia)

"*Rasa Sayang*" or "*Rasa Sayange*" is a popular folk song among Malaysians, Indonesians, and people from Singapore. In Malay, "Rasa" means "feel" and "Sayang" means "love." The lyrics are written in the Malay poetic form of "puntung." The lyrics of *Rasa Sayang* have various versions but usually start with "Rasa sayang, hey! Rasa sayang-sayang hey. Hey! Lihat nona jauh, Rasa sayang-sayang, hey!" In 2007, the Malaysian Tourism Board released a commercial advertisement as a part of its "Truly Asia" campaign. Some Indonesian's claimed that the song was actually Indonesians cultural heritage. Malaysia replied by saying that the song belongs to people of the Malay Archipelago, including Malaysians and Indonesians alike.

This dance was taught during the 23rd Asian Camp in Taiwan. The Chinese name of the dance means "Malay's Goodbye Dance." The line-dance version of *Rasa Sayang* is not covered in this article.

Translation: I Feel Love, Falling in Love

Steps: M and W use the same steps unless otherwise specified.

Duck-Step-Close step: (This is a variation of Step-Close step.) Facing diag L, extend L heel twd RLOD, keep wt on R (ct 1); step flat on L and move wt to L (ct &), close R beside L, taking wt (ct 2). Can be done with opp ftwk and direction. Alternatively, Duck-step-Close step can be replaced by a regular Step-Close step: Facing ctr, step L to L (ct 1), close R beside L, taking wt (ct 2).

Duck-Step-Touch step: (This is a variation of Step-Touch step.) Facing diag L, extend L heel twd RLOD, keep wt on R (ct 1); step flat on L and move wt to L (ct &), touch R beside L (ct 2). Can be done with opp ftwk and direction. Alternatively, Duck-step-Touch step can be replaced by a regular Step-Touch step: Facing ctr, step L to L (ct 1), touch R beside L (ct 2).

Heel-Toe Step: Touch L heel to the diag dir (1); point L toe beside R (2). Can be done with opp ftwk and direction.

Stamp: Take a heavy step on spot without wt (ct 1).

Formation: Circle of cpls facing ctr, M on L, in V-pos.

Meas 4/4 Meter

Pattern

1-10 INTRODUCTION No action. Begin the dance with singing.

I. IN-OUT, STEP-CLOSE, REPEAT

1 Beg L, walk three steps twd ctr (cts 1-3); point R toe fwd (ct 4).

2 Walk three steps outward (cts 1-3); point L toe bkwd (ct 4).

3-4 Beg L, take three Duck-Step-Close steps twd RLOD and one Duck-Step-Touch step twd RLOD (8 cts).

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction (16 cts).

II. HEEL-TOE, SIDE WALK, FORWARD AND BACKWARD

- 1 Face diag L, beg L heel, take two Heel-Toe steps (4 cts).
- 2 Facing diag L, walk three steps twd RLOD (L,R,L) (cts 1-3); Stamp R beside L (ct 4).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction (8 cts).
- 5 Release hands, beg L, M walk three steps twd ctr, W walk three steps bkwd (cts 1-3); Stamp R beside L and clap at shldr level (ct 4).
- 6 Beg R, M walk three steps bkwd, W walk three steps fwd (cts 1-3); Stamp L beside R and clap at shldr level (ct 4).
- 7 Repeat meas 6 with opp ftwk (4 cts).
- 8 Repeat first three steps with opp ftwk in meas 5, and turn facing ptr, M facing LOD and W facing RLOD, on ct 3 (cts 1-3); Stamp L beside R and clap at shldr level (ct 4).

III. CLAP, RIGHT, CLAP, LEFT, REPEAT

- 1 Clap at shldr level (ct 1); ptrs clap R hands (ct 2); clap at shldr level (ct 3); ptrs clap L hands (ct 4).
- 2 Beg L, walk four steps and pass ptr's R shldr, end facing a new ptr (4 cts).
- 3 Repeat meas 1 with new ptr (4 cts).
- 4 Beg L, walk four steps and pass ptr's L shldr, end facing another new ptr (4 cts).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 (16 cts). On the last ct, everyone turn facing ctr and join hands as in the beg position.

ENDING

- 1 Beg L, walk four steps twd ctr, joining hands and raising arms above head in the process (4 cts).
- 2 Release hands, keep individual hands in V-shape straight above head and beg L, walk back four steps while waving both hands slightly as if indicate farewell (4 cts).

Sequence:

Introduction (no action)

Fig I, Fig II, Fig III

Fig I, Fig II, Fig III

Fig I, Fig II (keep on facing ctr in the last two cts)

Ending