

Lašský starodávňý

(Silesia, Czech Republic)

A couple dance from the Lašsko Region of northeastern Moravia. The name means “old traditional dance from Lašsko.” Actually, “starodávňý” has a rich and complex meaning that is difficult to translate. It refers to someone or something that recalls a cherished memory, for example one's first love. In this context it refers not only to a very old dance, but to one that is fondly remembered. The name of the song in the music is “V širem poli” which means “In a broad field.” This particular starodávňý was also taught by Rejšeks at a Dvorana workshop in Jindřichův Hradec, Czech Republic on 11 August 1997, and elsewhere.

Pronunciation: LAHSH-skee STAH-roh-dahv-nee

Cassettes: *Dances from the Czech Republic, Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2001, Side A/4;*
Dvorana Summer Workshop 1997, Side A/3.

Rhythm: 6/8 meter (counted as 1, 2, 3)

Formation: Couples facing each other 2 meters apart, M facing out and W in.

Steps and Styling: Starodávňý Step: Starting with either ft, step fwd (ct 1); step near the heel of that ft (ct &); step fwd (ct 2); step fwd (ct 3). For example: R, close L, R, L. Style is flowing and graceful. Flex knees on each step. Steps on cts 1 and 3 are longer than the others, and the one on ct 3 is delayed as long as possible. Step repeats exactly.

Meas

Pattern

INTRODUCTION None

I. PROMENADE WITH TURNS (instrumental)

- 1 No action.
- 2 Bow to partner.
- 3-4 Starting with WR, ML, ptrs walk toward each other with 6 steps turning to face LOD on last step. M's hands are held behind their backs and W's to sides. On last step, M put R hand around W's waist and L behind own back. W wrap L arm around M's R, and R arm is free.
- 5-8 Promenade in LOD for 12 steps, starting with outside ft, slight knee bend on each step.
- 9-12 Turn CW with ptr in ballroom hold (R hips adjacent) with 4 Starodávňý Steps, both starting with inside ft (R) (M has to do foot change to start).
- 13-15 M turn W under his L arm 3 times while his R arm is held high. No steps are taken but M can keep time with music by slight knee flexing. W take 6 steps per meas as she turns.
- 16 W continues turning 1 more time (6 steps) without any support from M and backs into his R side so both end up facing LOD. Take same arm holds as in meas 5-8.

II. ROCKING PROMENADE; TURNING; BACKING (vocal).

- 1 Rock fwd onto outside ft (ct 1); rock back onto inside ft (ct 2); step fwd on outside ft (ct 3).
- 2 Step fwd on inside ft (ct 1); rock back on outside ft (ct 2); step fwd on inside ft (ct 3).
- 3-8 Repeat meas 1-2 three more times (total of 8 rocking sequences).
- 9-12 4 Starodávňý Steps turning CW both starting with R ft (ft change for M). R hands are on ptr's L shldr; M hold free hand out straight, palm down, and W hold arms down.

Lašský starodávňý—continued

- 13-14 Dance 6 walking steps, circling to L away from ptr and back. M can hold both arms out fwd, palms fwd. (Vocal ends after meas 14.)
- 15-18 Repeat meas 9-12 turning CCW beg with L ft (ft change again for M); L hands on ptr's R shldr.
- 19 Back away from ptr with 3 steps and hold (M backing twd ctr).
- 20 Walk 3 steps twd ptr, hold (nod to ptr).
- 21-22 Back away from ptr with 3 steps (meas 21). M are backing up in RLOD and W backing in LOD. Hold (cts 1-2); nod to ptr (ct 3). M's hands behind back.

III. ARM ROCKING PROMENADE; TURNS (vocal)

- 1-8 Promenade in LOD, M going fwd starting on L and W backing up starting with R, for 24 steps. Arms held out and rounded. After a few steps (about 4), ptrs join arms, holding at about elbows and rounded as before. Arms then tip up a little on the side that is stepping, and tip down on other side.
- 9-11 Hook L elbows and dance 3 Starodávňý Steps turning CCW with ptr starting with inside (L) ft. M's R arm can be held out to side, palm down.
- 12 Turn away from ptr to own R with 3 walks circling back to ptr (M on inside of circle).
- 13-15 Repeat meas 9-11 with opp ftwk and direction (vocal ends after meas 14).
- 16 Bending fwd but keeping elbow hold, run 6 quick steps around each other ending with M facing LOD (1 complete turn).

IV. SHOWOFF STEPS; TURNS; FINALE (instrumental)

- 1-4 M do 4 Starodávňý Steps making large circle around W and back to place (an option is to do 6 walks and 2 Starodávňý Steps). M clap on last beat of meas 4 as they face ptr. W turns to her R in place doing 4 Starodávňý Steps.
- 5-6 M place R toe in front of L twisting hips to L (ct 1); place R heel in front of L with small scuff and twisting hips to R (ct 2); step on R with clap for emphasis (ct 3). Repeat starting with left toe. W continue turns in place with 2 Starodávňý Steps.
- 7-8 M step to R (ct 1); close L (ct &); step to R (ct 2) with slight knee bend on each step, and kick L ft across in front of R with heel thrust forward (M can also slap L upper leg with L hand at same time) (ct 3). Repeat going to L starting with L ft. W continue turns in place with 2 Starodávňý Steps.
- 9-11 Ptrs do 3 Starodávňý Steps in ballroom hold (R hips adjacent) CW, both starting with R ft.
- 12 M turns W under L arm CW with 1 Starodávňý Step.
- 13-14 Dance 2 Starodávňý Steps starting LOD (M starts with L ft, W with R) circling away from ptr in small circle and back to place.
- 15-20 Repeat meas 9-14 (M have ft change to start).
- 21 Ptrs hold both hands. M do large gliding step to L (ct 1-2); close R to L (ct 3). W does 1 Starodávňý Step turning out to her R (first step is to R). Arms swing from slightly to M's R, to the L, and then leading hand hold is dropped and W's turn is completed with M's R and W's L only.
- 22 Face ptr (ct 1); M bows head twd ptr, W bends knees and nods (2); both raise head sharply and straighten legs (ct 3).

Presented by Radek Rejšek and Eva Rejšková

Notes by Bill and Louise Lidicker

Music and lyrics for Lašský starodávny:

V širém poli

Z Bruzovic-Slezsko



1. V ši-rem poli hrů-ška sto-ji v zahrad-ce dře,
pě-sto-za-la mat-ka cer-ku, a-le ně so-bě! Ej, žol, žol,
žol mi bu-dě až mi ju ve-zmu lu-dě, po-tě-še-ni mo-je.

2. Ona idě ku muzice jako leluja,
všci lude se divaju jaka je šumna.
/: Ej žol, žol, žol mi budě, až mi ju vezmu ludě, potěšení moje. :/

