

PONIEWIERANY

(poh-nyeh-vyeh-BAH nih)

Poniewierany is a mixer from the region of Szamotuły (shah-moh-TOO-wih) in the western part of Poland, called Wielkopolska (vyeh-koh-POHL-skah) (Great Poland). Wielkopolska, with Poland's first capital, Gniezno (GNYEHZ-noh), was the cradle of the Polish state. It is an important agricultural district, and rich in varied folklore traditions.

Some of the old costumes have been preserved there and are still worn on special occasions. Among them is the Szamotuły costume, which is characterized by the blue color of the unmarried woman's dress, a very elaborate white bonnet made out of starched tulle, which in one form or another is a part of many other Wielkopolska costumes, and her indispensable small white handkerchief pleated in the shape of a fan, which she adroitly uses while dancing.

The man often dances with a big whip, held in either his right or left hand. In some dances, when not dancing with a partner, he snaps it.

The name of the dance is derived from the verb "poniewierać" - to ill-treat somebody, which describes the fate of the woman in this dance, in which she cannot find a place of her own.

Music: Records: 2M-46729 "Tańce ludowe z Polski - Volume 2" (Folk Dances from Poland), side A, band 4. (available from Ada Dżiewanowska); 2/4 time.

Steps: Polka Step; Pivot Step

Styling: The Polka Step: When danced alone, is three flat steps on bended knees; the styling is especially heavy for the M who accents the third step by stamping. The F accents the third step by a slightly deeper bending of the knees. W's L hand is on own hip, thumb back, elbows slightly out. She holds handkerchief in R hand and fans herself using mostly wrist action. The handkerchief is held a few inches from waist; elbow is down.

The Pivot Step: The "okrouzek" (oh-KROH-ehahk), is danced with two steps per beat. It is smooth and has the same styling as the Polka.

Starting Position: Spin around the circle, also facing approx one ft apart, M's back to center. (Note: All figures are M-L, W-R)

PATTERN

Meas:
1-2

INTRODUCTION

FIGURE 1

Meas: 1

1

M: Dance one Polka Step to ctr, turning to face LOD.

W: Make one 1/4 turn, dancing one Polka Step away from ctr.

(cont.)

(Poniewierany)

- 2 M: Dance one Polka Step away from ctr: return to orig place; face ptr.
W: Dance one Polka Step in o circle and face ptr.
3-4 Assume round shldr-waist pos and dance four Pivot steps, moving LOD, making two CW cpl turns.
5 Repeat action of meas 1.
6 M: Dance one Polka Step away from ctr and diag bkwd to reach next W in RLOD.
W: Dance one Polka Step diag fwd and into circle to reach next M in LOD. (New partners face each other).
7-8 Repeat action of meas 3-4 with new ptr.
Melody B:
1-8 Repeat action of Fig 1, meas 5-8 twice.

FIGURE II

Melody C:

- 1-2 Dance two Polka Steps LOD, making one CW cpl turn.
3-4 Dance four Pivot steps LOD, making two CW cpl turns.
5-8 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-4.

REPEAT DANCE TWICE, EXCEPT ON FIG I, MEAS 1-2 OF EACH REPETITION
DANCE FIG I, MEAS 5-6.



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