

Belgorodskaya Matanya

(Russia)

Belgorodskaya Matanya is a progressive traditional folk dance from the Belgorod region in southern Russia. The name *Matanya* has two origins: a girl's name and the word *motat'* which means "to turn" or "to spin." Alexei Shilin, the ethno-musicologist, collected the dance on a field expedition and introduced it at the Easter Dance Camp in Russia in 1993. During the dance, *Chastushky* (a short four-line rhyme) is sung to inspire the dancers.

Pronunciation: behl-gah-ROHD-skah-yah mah-TAHN-yah

Cassette: Konings – Stockton 1996; Russian Dances Stockton 1994

2/4 meter

Formation: Cpls side-by-side in a circle facing ctr. W to R of ptr. Hands at sides with elbows slightly bent.

Steps and Ftwk same for all unless otherwise noted.

Styling: Scuff Step (2 to a meas): Low leap fwd onto R (ct 1); scuff L heel fwd (ct &); repeat with opp ftwk (cts 2, &).

Stamping Step: Small hop on L (ct ah); stamp fwd R, L (with wt), R (no wt) (cts 1, &, 2). Step repeats exactly.

Turning Step: Leap onto R ft (ct 1); step on L near R (ct &); leap onto L (ct 2). Step alternates.

Meas

Pattern

8 meas

INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. INTO CTR AND BACK; CIRCLE CW

- 1-2 Beg R, walk 3 steps twd ctr (1 step to a ct); stamp L (no wt) beside R (meas 2, ct 2). Bent arms move easily across in front of the body in opposition to the stepping ft.
- 3-4 Beg L, walk 3 steps bkwd away from ctr and stamp R beside L. Arms move as in meas 1-2.
- 5-8 Beg R, make a small CW circle with 8 Scuff Steps. Extend arms to sides, a little away from body. Tilt body twd the stepping ft.

II. CLAP; MAN CIRCLE WOMAN

- 1 Turning to look at neighbor (ML, WR) clap twice (cts 1,2).
- 2 Turning to look at ptr (MR, WL) clap twice (cts 1,2).
- 3-8 Dance 6 Stamping Steps. W dance in place. M circle once CW around ptr and a little more to end with back to ctr and facing ptr.

III. CLAP; COUPLE TURN

- 1 Facing ptr, clap 3 times (cts 1, &, 2).
- 2-7 Take ptr in turn pos: M place R hand on ptr's back just above waist; W place L hand on M R shldr. W hold M upper arm just below shldr with R hand. M hold W upper R arm just below shldr with L hand. Beg ML, WR dance 6 Turning Steps travelling in LOD and making 3 CW turns.
- 8 Release ptr and reform original circle with W on ML.
Repeat dance as written until music ends, each time with a new ptr.

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Description by Ruth Ruling and Joyce Lissant Uggla