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BIALY MAZUR

(POLAND)

Bialy Mazur (BeAH.-we), meaning "White Mazur", was presented at University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp, Stockton, California, 1963, by Vyts Beliajus, from whom Sam Mednick, who introduced it to California Folk Dancers at the 1952 State Festival in Oakland, originally learned the dance. Mr. Mednick made certain re-arrangements to fit the then available music. The Mazur comes from the Northern Poland (around Warsaw), the center of the Mozovian district. It is considered the national dance of that area. It is a true folk dance, during which skilled dancers indulge in much improvisation. Originally, it was a dance of the gentry rather than the peasants, and developed into two main forms, the ballet form and the folk form. During demonstrations by ethnic groups, these two forms were judged separately, each form receiving a prize. The costumes were elaborate, often fur trimmed, and the dancers wore boots, hence the reference "Polish Boot Dance". The leader usually selected the figures to be danced and directed the piper.

The Bialy Mazur has been presented extensively by exhibition groups during the past 10 years. The many variations in style seen at Festivals are the result of the improvisations introduced into the Mazur in its original folk form, and by demonstration groups in competition.

MUSIC: Record: National 456 - Bialy Mazur - 45 rpm
Columbia 12294-F - "Polish Boot Dance" - 78 rpm (now unavailable)
Piano: "Dances of Poland", W. H. Sajewski Music and Publishing Co.,
Inc., Chicago, Illinois, 1953.

FORMATION: Four cpls in a set, face CCW. Ptrs inside hands joined, free hands of both M and W held obliquely from shoulder, arms slightly curved, or may be placed on hip. W may hold skirt.

STEPS AND STYLING: Mazur Step: An accented running step. Accent the first beat with a sharp staccato step, bringing the opp ft up sharply in back with knee bend (ct 1), on cts 2 and 3 the steps are small and unaccented, although the movement is fwd. Step may start on either ft except in Pattern VIII, as noted.

*Click Step

Heads are held proudly, bodies erect. A characteristic feature of the M dancing is vigor of movement; the W movements are more flowing.

* Described in Volumes of Folk Dances from Near and Far, published by Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., 1095 Market Street, Room 213, San Francisco 3, California.

MUSIC 3/4**PATTERN****Measures**

1-4 INTRODUCTION - All stamp twice on last meas.

I. CIRCLE

1-8 With 7 mazur steps beginning ML-WR, cpls move CCW around the set. Outside arms wave gracefully out and in on alternate meas. W may hold skirt and move it out and in. Accent last meas with 2 stamps.

II. HOLUBCZYK (Ho WOOb-chik) (Turn with ptr)

1-8 Move slightly behind W and assume pos at her L; join L hands in front, R hands at WR hip (Holubczyk or "sweetheart" pos). With 8 mazur steps, ptrs turn CCW in place (2 or 3 times); M move bwd, W fwd. Ptrs should be facing ctr of set at end of this figure.

Note: Dancers should use last meas of each Holubczyk turn to position themselves for the figure to follow.

III. WOMEN'S MILL

1-4 Release R hands,; M lead W CCW to form R hand mill in ctr of set, L hand still joined with ptr.

(continued on pages 17-20)

(continued)

Formation moves CW; M (facing ptr) move swd CW with 3 heel clicks (meas 1-3). MR hand held high, curved upward; rotate wrist once on each heel click. On meas 4 M jump up off both ft (ct 1), drop to R knee (ct 3). With 4 small mazur steps, W move CW in "mill".

Note: To form mill quickly, W 1 and 3 may place palm to palm (steeple) and W 2 and 4 place hands on outside of their hands.

- 5-7 W release R hands and move CCW around kneeling M (L hand remains joined with ptr and R hand holds skirt). M allows L hand to pass overhead as he watches ptr.
- 8 W release L hands with ptr, move CW to M ahead. M jump up and join L hand with new ptr. When giving L hands, join as in shaking hands.
- 9-32 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig III) three more times.

INTERLUDE

- 1-2 Join L hands with ptr (L hands around). With 2 mazur steps exchange places, M back to ctr; M join hands high to form Arches.

IV. ARCHES

- 1-4 Throughout figure, M mark time in place with 3 mazur steps and 2 stamps. W place hands (knuckles) on hips, bring shoulders and elbows fwd. With 3 mazur steps, pass L shoulders with ptr and move fwd under Arches. Face ctr and stamp twice on last meas.
- 5-8 W turn 1/4 CCW, and with 3 mazur steps pass out through Arch under ptrs R arm to face next M; stamp twice.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig IV), W continuing to move CW, alternating in and out of Arches.
- 17-24 With 3 mazur steps and 2 stamps, W move through Arch, again passing L shoulders with ptr, as in meas 1. With 3 more mazur steps, move out under ptrs R arm and make 1/4 turn CCW. Face ptr and stamp twice on last meas.

V. HOLUBCZYK

- 25-32 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 9-16. On meas 32, cpls should be in circle facing LOD. Release L hands, W place L hand on ptrs R shoulder. M still clasp W-R hand at waist. With L hand, M quickly grasp wrist of M in front.

VI. MEN'S MILL

- 1-4 M mill rotates CCW; with 3 mazur steps, ptrs move fwd. On meas 4 (ct 1), all bend knees in slight crouch. M release W-R hand, give W a slight pull bwd to force turn, and jump fwd to W ahead; place R arm around W waist and join R hands with new ptr. Movement for both M and W is down (ct 1), jump up (ct 2), come down and join hands (ct 3).
- Simultaneously, W make one complete turn CW to meet M jumping fwd, place L hand on his shoulder, and R hand on own hip, to join with M-R hand.
- 5-16 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig VI) three more times, returning to original ptr.

VII. INTERLUDE (Holubczyk) (Short)

- 1-4 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-4; make 1-3/4 turn to finish in single circle, W to R of ptr. Join hands, shoulder height.

VIII. CIRCLE AND BASKET

- 1-8 All beginning R ft, circle CCW with 7 mazur steps and stamp twice on meas 8. Body should be turned R, with L hip turned twd ctr of circle.
- 9-16 Release hands, W join hands at hip height. M reach over W joined hands (not over their heads) and join hands to "make a basket". All beginning L ft, circle CW with 7 mazur steps and stamp twice on meas 16.

BIALY MAZUR (continued)

IX. LINE

- 1-4 The cpl facing the music breaks the basket by releasing hands with cpl on their R. Cpls who break join free hands with ptrs. With 3 mazur steps and 2 stamps, the end cpls move bwd while the two ctr cpls remain almost in place (or move fwd) to form a straight line, backs to music.
- Note: By pre-arrangement among cpls in sets, or for Festival dancing, one cpl may be designated to break the basket, and the lines arrange themselves in the space available.
- 5-8 With 3 mazur steps, line move fwd. Take 2 stamps in place.
- 9-12 With 3 mazur steps, line move bwd. Take 2 stamps in place.
- 13-16 M continue to dance mazur steps in place, raise joined hands; with 4 mazur steps W move fwd under "Arches" formed by M, to make new line 8-10 feet away. W hands remain joined while making new line, then both M and W release hands.

INTERLUDE

- 1-2 M place hands on hips, with 2 mazur steps turn 1/4 CCW. W raise R arm, place L hand on hip, and on 2 mazur steps make 1-1/4 turn CW in place; R shoulder now twd ptr.

X. CROSSOVER AND ELBOW TURN WITH PTR.

- 1-4 With 4 heel click steps, all move to own R, passing face to face with ptr. Arms (extended downward) move to crossed pos in front of body during step-close, and out to side on heel click.
- 5-8 Both make 1/4 turn CCW to face ptr; with 3 mazur steps move fwd to meet ptr, L hand on hip, R arm

swinging gracefully out and in. On meas 8, bend knees on ct 1, jump off both ft on ct 2, come down, hook R elbows with ptr on ct 3.

- 9-12 With 3 mazur steps turn CW with ptr, jump up on meas 12, turn in twd ptr, hook L elbows. Free hand is held obliquely from shoulder, arm slightly curved.
- 13-16 Repeat action of meas 9-12 (Fig X). Turn CCW.
- 17-24 Repeat action of meas 9-16 (Fig X). On last repeat (meas 24) on completion of CCW turn, the jump is omitted.

XI. HOLUBCZYK (Short)

- 1-4 Repeat action Fig II, meas 1-4. Release hands and join inside hands with ptr.

XII. REFORM SET

- 1-8 With 7 mazur steps, cpl at R end of line move fwd CCW, followed by other 3 cpls (as in Fig I, meas 1-8). Stamp twice on meas 8.

XIII. HOLUBCZYK AND POSE

- 9-14 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-6. Finish facing LOD. Release R hands.
- 15-16 M turn W 1-1/4 CCW (to her L) under joined L hands, M drop to L knee, facing LOD. W sit on inside of M-R knee ctr of set. L hands remain joined, R hand held high, or M-R arm around W waist. W-R hand held high as in Fig X, meas 12, or may be joined with M-R at waist.