

FINSTERAUER LÄNDLER
(Germany)

Finsterauer Ländler is a couple dance from lower Bavaria and can be seen at the local fests and community dances. It was learned by Morry Gelman from folk dance groups in Munich. This form of landler with the woman turning under joined hands while the M circles the woman is found in various forms in the Bayerischer Wald, a region in lower Bavaria along the Czech and upper Austrian borders. In upper Austria the Innviertler Ländler is highly regarded by Austrian folklorists for the singing of verses, yodeling, and syncopated patsching (hand clapping) that accompanies the dance.

Pronunciation: FIN-ster-ow-er LAHND-ler

Record: Festival FEP502 Side A, Band 1 3/4 meter

Formation: Cpls at random about the floor, ptrs facing with right hands joined and held back (twd RLOD). M has back to ctr.

Steps: Single step: A walking step taken on ct 1 of a meas.

Pattern

Meas

1-4 INTRODUCTION

PART I. Woman Turn Under; Man around Woman

- 1-2 Cpls swing joined right hands fwd (1 meas) and back (1 meas). Some body motion fwd and back is used but it is not a full Waltz Balance.
- 3-4 Cpls swing joined hands fwd as W turns once CW (1 meas) under joined hands which are swung to a fwd pos after W finishes her turn (1 meas). There is some fwd motion in LOD for the cpl during this maneuver.
- 5-8 Cpl swings joined hands in RLOD and then raises them as W turns once CCW under while moving to inside of circle. At same time, M with single step (start L ft) moves to outside of circle (actually to place W just left). As cpl raises joined hands again, W continues turning once CCW and moving twd outside of circle. M takes 2nd single step with R ft around W and continues twd inside of circle. W makes 3rd CCW turn under raised hands while returning to place; M takes 3rd single Left step to place and figure ends as cpl swings joined hands RLOD. On meas 8, M step on R beside L. Both M and W end with feet together.
- (Clarification: As W makes one circle around M, she is also making 2 CCW turns. She may start with either ft and take 1 step per ct, or step on cts 1 and 3 of each meas. M swings their joined hands in a vertical CCW (as he looks at it) circle 3 times, always coming down and across the bottom of the circle on ct 1 of meas 5,6,7.)

- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8.

INTERLUDE

Swing joined hands fwd (1 meas) and back (1 meas) and fwd again while W turns under 1-1/2 CW to Varsouvienne pos (2 meas).

Continued.

- Meas PART II. Waltzing Forward
1-8 Cpls waltz in LOD, both start with L ft. Drop hands at end and turn to face each other.

- PART III. Clapping**
1-8 Hit own hands three times, ptrs hands once, own once, ptr once.
Repeat the pattern 3 times; on last time, stop on ct 4 (hold 5 and 6).

Repeat dance from the beginning.

Presented by Morry Gelman at the
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