

KALOTASZEGI LEGÉNYES
(Hungary)

This "Lad's Dance" comes from the Kalotaszegi region of Transylvania around the city of Cluj, and is most popular among the Hungarian and Hungarian-speaking gypsies of that area.

I first saw this dance in 30 to 40-year old films taken by Dr. Gyorgy Martin. Since then I have seen it danced by professional and amateur ensembles, and have worked on the material with Dr. Csaba Pálfi and Sándor Timár. I have also discussed it with Dr. Ernő Pesovár who has notated many of the motifs with Dr. Agoston Lányi. In 1978 I travelled to the Transylvanian villages of Mera and Vista with Zoltán Kállos, and observed and danced "Legényes" with the people there. According to the villages, the "best" dancers were two gypsy brothers who are keeping the tradition alive by teaching the dance to the young village men.

The simplest form of "Legényes" consists of an eight measure musical phrase divided into three parts: the first two measures or Beginning Motif (see A1 and A2), the next four meas or Middle Motif (see B1 through B4), and the last two meas or Closing Motif (see C1 through C4). The music presented here is in A B B C form.

"Legényes" would typically begin a dance event in Transylvania and would be followed by a "Lassu" or slow cpl dance, graduating into a "Csárdás" of varying tempi. The dancers may return to "Legényes" after the cycle is completed, or it may begin another cycle. During "Legényes" the men take turns at virtuoso improvisations in front of the musicians lasting one or two minutes. The performance of one man may challenge or inspire another dancer to return or join him, sharing variations either contrapuntally or in unison. I have derived the motifs presented here from these improvised variations. Most of the variations have been recorded in Labanotation by Pesovár and Lányi in their book on Hungarian dance types.

The recent "Táncház" movement in Hungary, somewhat analogous to the American recreational folk dance scene, has brought about alterations in the traditional "Legényes" format. "Táncház" musicians may accompany dances from many areas and consequently will play only a few "Legényes" tunes in one evening. In this case, more men take the opportunity to dance at once, changing the original structure of the improvisational sequence.

Pronunciation: kaw-loh-tah-SEH-gee LEH-gehn-yesh

Record: Folkraft LP 51 - Hungaroton SLPX 18031-32
Hungaroton SLPX 18033 2/4 meter.

Formation: Men standing at random in the dancing space, gathered around or in front of the musicians. When the hands are not busy slapping the thighs or boots, they are generally in constant motion, held in a relaxed pos, from waist to shldr height, elbows somewhat close to the body, keeping time by snapping to the rhythm.

KALOTASZEGI LEGÉNYES (continued)

<u>Meas</u>	<u>Ct</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
		<u>MOTIF A1</u>
1	1	Hop on R ft, at the same time lift L leg, straight, across and in front of R leg.
	&	Step on L ft across and in front of R ft.
	2	Hold.
	&	Step on to R ft next to L ft.
2	1	Strike L heel slightly in front of R ft, plié on R ft.
	&	Touch ball of L ft slightly to L (knee turned in, remaining in plié).
	2	Click L ft next to R ft rising out of plié.
	&	Chug slightly fwd on both ft.
		<u>MOTIF A2</u>
1	1	Lift on L ft, simultaneously lift R knee in front of L knee, picking R ft up, diag back.
	&	Lower L ft heel in place and continue to bring R ft fwd and in front of L ft. This is a rolling type of movement.
	2	Step on to R ft fwd, and lift L instep (L ft turned out) up behind R knee.
	&	Hold.
2		Repeat action of meas 2, Motif A1.
		Comment: A complete dance phrase lasts 8 meas and would begin with one of the above Motifs. There are of course many more variations but these two were the popular versions that I learned.
		<u>MOTIF B1</u>
1	1	Touch R heel in front. Plié on L leg.
	&	Touch ball of R ft next to L (about 6 inches to R side), staying in plié.
	2	Lift on L, and kick R ft low and fwd (knee straightened).
	&	Step on R ft next to L ft.
2		Repeat action of meas 1 with opp ftwk.
3-4		Repeat action of meas 1-2.
		<u>MOTIF B2</u>
1	1	Lift on L ft, and lift R ft up and out to R, knees together.
	&	Slap R outer heel with R palm.
	2	Cross and step on R ft in front of L.
	&	Slap L upper thigh with L palm, simultaneously lifting on R and lifting L ft slightly out to L.
2	1	Jump-close L ft to R ft, bending knees slightly.
	&	Slap R upper thigh with palm, lift R ft slightly out to R.
	2	Close R ft to L.
	&	Chug fwd on both ft.
3-4		Repeat action of meas 1-2 but with opp ftwk and direction.

KALOTASZEGI LEGÉNYES (continued)MOTIF B3

- 1 1 Turning slightly to R, lift R leg (straight) and slap upper boot top with R palm, L hand is at small of back.
 & Step on R ft.
 uh Step L ft next to R ft.
 2 Slap upper R boottop as above.
 & Step fwd onto R ft.
 2 1 Step on L ft next to R.
 & Slap R boottop as above.
 2 Close-jump R ft to L.
 & Chug fwd slightly on both ft.
 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2 but with opp ftwk and direction.

MOTIF B4

- 1 1 Lift on L ft, R ft begins to describe an outward CCW circular motion from the knee down. Slap outer upper thigh with R palm.
 & Lower on to L heel, R ft continues circular motion, slap outer R heel with R palm.
 2, & Repeat action of cts 1, &.
 2 1, & Repeat action of meas 1, cts 1, &.
 2 Touch R heel fwd, plié on L.
 & Touch ball of R ft next to L, remaining in plié.
 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2 but with opp ftwk and direction.
 Note: During this movement, the whole body pivots slightly CCW. (This is CW on meas 3-4).

MOTIF C1

- 1 1 Preparatory lift on L ft, lift R knee out diag to R, slap outer upper R thigh with R palm.
 & In a circular motion swing R ft up and out, R knee goes in, and slap outer L upper thigh with L palm.
 uh Slap R outer heel with R palm.
 2 Close R ft to L.
 & Begin lifting L ft fwd and slap L upper thigh with L palm.
 2 1 Slap L upper boot with R palm (L leg straight).
 & Begin to swing L leg in circular movement L.
 2 Close L ft to R.
 & Hold.

MOTIF C2

- 1 1 Lift on L ft, lift R ft up and out to R, knees together.
 & Slap R outer heel with R palm.
 2 Close R ft to L, plié with knees apart, upper body bent fwd.
 & Slap-brush L inner boot with L palm.
 2 1 Slap-brush R inner boot leg with R palm.
 & Rise and jump with legs diag out to each side.
 2 Close-click legs together when landing.
 & Hold.

KALOTASZEGI LEGÉNYES (continued)MOTIF C3

- 1-2 Repeat action of meas 1-2, Motif B3, but rather than chugging at the end, just close-jump and pause.

MOTIF C4

- 1 1 Clap hands together at eye level.
 & Jump into the air, knees together, R palm slaps R outer ankle as L palm slaps L outer ankle.
 2 Land on both ft in demi-plié, knees turned out.
 & Upper body bent fwd, palms slap inside on calves, knees still bent.
- 2 1 Clap hands together at eye level.
 & Jump into the air, knees together, R palm slaps R outer ankle as L palm slaps L outer ankle.
 2 Land with ft together.
 & Hold.

Finito!

Notes by Stephen Kotansky and Janet Reineck.

Presented by Stephen Kotansky