

KALVELIS  
(Lithuania)

SOURCE: No dance of Lithuanian origin has won greater favor among American folk dancers than has Kalvelis, which is now known in almost every nook of the country. Among the Lithuanians, too, it is the first dance they learn in their repertoire. Because of its popularity, it is no wonder that many folk dance groups here created new versions or elaborated on its simple playfulness. In some regions, the version is a far cry from the original which I first introduced to the general American folk dance audiences during the late '30's. However, the version described below is the authentic one and is set down in a Lithuanian governmental publication. This dance may be considered an occupational dance, though the only thing portraying the smithy's occupation is the handclapping in the Refrain which represents the striking of the hammer on the anvil.

MUSIC: RECORD:

FORMATION: Any number of cpls. All join H's in a circle, W on M's R.

MUSIC: 2/4

PATTERN

Meas

PART I

- 1-7 Polka in circle to the R, seven polka steps.
- 8 Stamp three times.
- 9-16 All polka to left ending with 3 stamps, facing ptrs.

REFRAIN

- 1 Clap own H twice (R over L) (1), L over R (2). Imitate hammer beating over anvil
- 2 Same as meas 1, Refrain
- 3-4 Hook R arms with ptr and turn once in place with four skips
- 5-6 Clap as in meas 1-2, Refrain
- 7-8 Hook L arms and turn in place
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8, Refrain

PART II

- 1-3 All face ctr of circle. W dance twd ctr with 3 polka steps.
- 4 3 stamps and turn to face ptr.
- 5-8 Beck to place with 3 polka steps finish with 3 stamps and turn to face ctr.
- 9-16 M polka into circle and out as in meas 1-8 of this Part. However, their steps are more vigorous, stamping on the first beat of each meas.

REFRAIN

PART III

- 1-16 Face ptrs and do a grand R & L. If the group is small continue Grand R & L until ptrs meet a second time. If ptr meet before

*Continued...*

end of music, hook R arms and turn in place with polka steps. If the group is very large, repeat this music as long as necessary.

## REFRAIN

## PART IV (Optional)

1-16 Polka around in the circle CCW with own ptr.

## REFRAIN

The dance either begins again, or if desired dancers exit from floor during the polka of Part IV before reaching Refrain.

Presented by Vyts Bellajus  
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