



MOUNTAIN SPRING SONG (Taiwan)

The mountain people are fond of singing and dancing; when they are happy they begin spontaneously to move their hands and tap their feet. It may therefore be said that their dances have no pre-determined steps or music: when they are joyful they will dance to any music.

The first part of this dance shows the young men and girls walking slowly hand in hand over the open country in the beautiful spring sunshine; the second part shows them swinging their arms and stamping their feet as they break into a dance of joy; in the 3rd part they are wandering happily to and fro in the mountains reluctant to go home.

Record: FOLK DANCER MH 1140 (available from: Folk Dance House, P O Box 2305  
(Meter 4/4) North Babylon, N. Y. 11703)

Formation: Single circle, men and women mixed at random, or circle of alternate men and women, or lines of 6-8 dancers side by side, the dancer on the extreme Right leading the line in whatever direction he chooses. Begins in front basket hold, Left arms above, Right below. Begin facing diagonally to the Right. Stamp Left foot for 16 counts.

Counts

- A. 1-4
  1. Step forward toward Right on the Left foot, bending Left knee a little and leaning body slightly forward.
  2. Point Right toe behind Left heel.
  3. Step back on to the Right foot, bending the Right knee a little and leaning slightly backward.
  4. Point Left toe beside Right foot.
- 5-30 Repeat 1-4, 8 1/2 times, moving gradually forward to the Right. Finally release joined hands.
- B 1-10 Fold arms held out horizontally in front of chest. Each dancer turns a circle clockwise in place, ending side by side facing center. Step: 5 step and close (stamp Right foot down, close up Left foot lightly). Folded arms swing down to Left and up to Right in time with the steps.
- C 11-14
  1. Step sideways to Right onto the Right foot, bending forward and clapping hands once low in front.
  2. Keeping weight on the Right foot, stamp Left foot beside it, raising both arms out at Right side, hands fluttering with palms down (rock hands from wrists).
  3. Step sideways to Left onto the Left foot, swinging arms from Right side to over top of head.
  4. Keeping weight on Left foot, stamp Right foot beside it, lowering arms to Left side.
- 15-30 Repeat 11-14 3 times.
- D 1-6 (Interlude) Stamp feet 6 times, ending with weight on Right foot. During this interlude the dancers move closer together, to join hands as before (front basket).
- 7-10 Hands joined as at beginning. Beginning with Left foot, walk 2 steps forward to Right. On 3rd beat, Left foot step across behind Right foot, turning body towards Left. On beat 4, close Right foot beside Left.
- 11-14 Beginning with Left foot, walk 3 steps forward to Left, on 3rd step turn 1/2 circle to Right, with Left foot as pivot. 4th beat. Close Right foot beside Left foot.
- 15-30 Repeat 7-14 twice.

REPEAT the dance from Part A.

Presented by Yang Chang Song at Maine Folk Dance Camp 1986

Presented by Sandy Starkman at Maine Folk Dance Camp 1986

