

Kerenski

(Finland)

This particular Finnish folk dance is interesting because of its similarity in step patterns and melody of musical accompaniment to a Russian folk dance in different title. The music is definitely Russian in quality with its minor mode and a certain nostalgic feeling characteristic of many Slavic dances. These similarities, however, are not surprising when one refers to the map showing the proximity of Finland and Russia with boundary lines which introduce few if any barriers to an interchange of folkways.

Figures I, II, and IV are danced with a smooth, subtle quality while Fig. III is more spirited in quality and accented with stamps as indicated.

Formation: Any number of couples in a double circle, partners facing, M's back to center of circle. M holds W's Lhand in his R at shoulder level, elbows bent, free hands on hips. M's part is analyzed; W's is opposite with a reversal of feet and directions throughout.

Measure Part I

1	1	M beginning L W R, couples progress CCW around the large circle with step L to side.
	&	Close R to L, taking weight R.
	2&	Repeat.
2	1	Step L to side.
	&	Step R across in front of L.
	2	Step L to side.
	&	Close R to L, taking weight R.
3-4		Repeat all. On last close step, M keeps R feet free, W L.
5-8		Repeat all in opposite direction.

Part II

A 1	1	In original position in circle, partners facing, holding joined hands out to side step L to side.
	&	Swing R across in front of L, swinging joined arms in front of body.
	2	Step R to side.
	&	Swing L across in front of R, swinging joined arms sideward to R.
B 2	1&,2	Swinging joined hands strongly fwd and upwd, partners release joined hands and turn away from each other, making one complete turn, finishing to face again, with 3 steps (L, R, L).
	&	Hold, M taking W's R hand in his L, placing his R hand on his hip.
3-8		Repeat A and B three times, alternately reversing feet, arms, and direction of turns.

Part III

1	1&,2&	Partners facing with both hands on hips, M begins L and moves bkwd while W begins R and moves fwd into center of circle with 4 fast skip steps (L, R, L, R).
A		
2	1&,2	3 stamps in place (L, R, L).
	&	Hold.
3-4		Repeat with W moving bkwd (beginning L), M fwd (beginning R), to original positions in the circle.
5-8		In closed social dance position (M's L, W's R), couples turn CW while progressing CCW around the large circle with 8 two-steps.
B		

Part IV

1-8

Repeat Part I as analyzed.

Repeat entire dance as many times as desired.