

KOSEDER (Poland)

Pronunciation: koh-SEH-dehr

Koseder is a couple dance in 2/4 time from Kaszuby (kah-SHOO-bih) in the eastern part of Pomorze (poh-MOH-zheh) (Pomerania), the Baltic Sea region, Poland's window on the maritime world. In their music, dances, and costumes the Kaszuby people have assimilated into the native Slavic elements influences from other nations on the Baltic -- the Germans and the Scandinavians. Like the Swedes the men wear yellow trousers. The women ornament their velvet bonnets with embroidery done with a golden thread, and wear necklaces made of amber, which is plentiful on the Baltic shores. The Kaszuby people make their living from farming, cattle breeding, and fishing.

The name of the dance Koseder is derived either from an old word "kosej" or "kusej," which means a banquet, or from the word "kosić" (to mow), as this dance might have been done in the fields during harvesting, or from the word "na ukos" (diagonally), as there is a diagonal movement of the leg in the main step. The Kaszuby people consider the Koseder as their most representative dance. Another version of it, known as "kosejder," is done in the region of Warmia and Mazury. Ada and Jaś have learned the Kaszuby version in 1970, in Tuchola, Poland, from Kazimierz Przybylski, an expert Kaszuby dancer. There exist, however, other ways of doing it. See Paweł Szeffka, Tańce Kaszubskie, Zeszyt I (Gdańsk- 1957 and 1978). The music of Koseder is composed of two parts: melody A (Koseder step) and melody B (polka step).

Steps and Styling

Koseder Step (takes two meas): Beginning L ft, dance one flat polka step fwd (cts 1,&,2 of 1st meas); hop on L ft, extending R leg diag to L (ct 1 of 2nd meas); leap in place onto R ft, slightly back, bend L knee and cut with L ft across R ankle, body hinges strongly fwd (ct 2 of 2nd meas). Repeat of Step is done with the same ftwk. Szeffka's version: Dance the Koseder Step the same way, except cross bent R leg in front of L (ct 1 of 2nd meas) and extend L leg fwd (ct 2 of 2nd meas).

Polka With a "Knyks" (pronounced nihx, a word of German origin, meaning a curtsy): Beginning on R ft, dance a flat polka step fwd; on ct 2 step R ft with a quick vertical drop ("knyks"), free L ft flicks up in back. Repeat of Step is done with opp ftwk.

Turning Polka is danced in closed social dance pos, with flat steps: Beginning M L, W R, make a 1/2 CW turn with each polka step; on ct 1 of each odd meas bend torso sdwd (M L, W R) in LOD, dipping joined hands down, and on ct 1 of each even meas bend torso sdwd (M R, W L) in LOD, bringing joined hands overhead.

KOSEDER (continued)

Przytup (PSHIH-toop) - done on last meas of a phrase: Dance two stamps (cts 1, 2).

Note: The above steps may be used in several different variations of figures. The following description is one of them.

Record: ZM-40591 "Tańce Ludowe z Polski - Volume 1" (Folk Dances From Poland), side B, band 6. 2/4 meter.

Formation: Circle of cpls, facing LOD, W in front of M; hands on own hips (fingers and elbows fwd).

MeasPatternINTRODUCTION

1-4 No action.

I. KOSEDER SINGLE FILE (Melody A - 8 meas repeated)

1-14 Dance seven sets of the Koseder Step, moving in LOD.

15 Dance one flat polka step fwd.

16 Dance the Przytup (R,L).

II. POLKA WITH A "KNYKS" (Melody B - 8 meas repeated)

1-8 All join hands in a ring, and moving in LOD, dance eight Polkas With a "Knyks," changing direction with the last one.

9-15 Dance seven Polkas With a "Knyks," moving in RLOD.

16 Dance the Przytup (L,R), changing direction to face LOD and joining hands with ptr in skater's pos.

III. KOSEDER WITH PTR (Melody A - 8 meas repeated)

1-14 Dance seven sets of the Koseder Step, moving in LOD.

15-16 Repeat action of meas 15-16, (Figure I), except M: no wt on 2nd stamp (L).

IV. TURNING POLKA (Melody B - 8 meas repeated)

1-14 Acquiring closed social dance pos, dance 14 Turning Polka Steps.

15 Repeat action of meas 15 (Figure I).

16 Dance the Przytup: M, R,L (no wt), W, L,R, moving in front of ptr.



Repeat the entire dance one more time.

Dance introduced in 1971 and presented by Ada Dziewanowska at the 1974 and 1981 Stockton Folk Dance Camp and at the 1981 San Diego Folk Dance Camp in California. Please do not reproduce these directions without Ada's permission.

Presented by Ada Dziewanowska