

Lebedushka (Russia)

Lebedushka (leh-beh-DOOSH-kah), a non-partner dance from Russia, was learned by Alexandru David from the Beryozka State Ensemble, Moscow, in 1979. He presented it at the 1980 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

RECORD: Barinya, by Alexandru David, 1979 Side A/2 2/4 meter

FORMATION: Circle of dancers all facing LOD, fists at waist.

STEPS: Walk*, stamp*, brush*, leap*, run*.

Hit L Heel (takes 1 ct): With wt on L ft raise heel quickly and lower it sharply, hitting floor with sound on the ct.

STYLING: Dance begins in a dignified manner in keeping with the classical quality of the music and then becomes lighter, gayer as music speeds up. Keep back straight; use good leg extension. Hands are fisted at waist except when otherwise noted (Figs I, II, IV, VI, Ending). When arms open, they open fwd and to sides in large circular pattern.

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MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

4 meas INTRODUCTION No action.

I. TRAVEL IN LOD

1 Move fwd in LOD with 3 steps R,L,R (cts 1,&,2) as arms open wide to each side. Raise lower L leg in back on ct 2 in order to make full swing of leg on brush: brush L diag fwd L, toe turned out and body turned in direction of brush (ct &). On the follow-through of the swing, raise on ball of R ft.

2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk but still move in LOD. Arms reverse arc and fists are at waist by ct 2.

3-7 Repeat meas 1-2 two and a half times.

8 Step L,R, turning to face ctr, stamp L taking wt (cts 1,&,2) bringing fists to waist by ct 2.

II. TRAVEL SIDEWARD

1 Step sdwd to R on R with R knee bent (down) as arms begin to open (ct 1), head follows movement of leading (R) arm; step on ball of L ft across in back of R, L knee straight (up) (ct &); repeat for cts 2,&.

2-3 Repeat meas 1 twice more. Arms continue to open in wide arc, and are fully extended sdwd at end of meas 3.

4 End with small leap onto R, bringing fists sharply to place on waist (ct 1); stamp in place L,R (cts &,2).

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 in opp direction (RLOD) and with opp ftwk.

NOTE: Step becomes a "push-step" as music speeds up.

III. IN PLACE

1 Hit L Heel (ct 1); stamp R slightly fwd, no wt (ct &); repeat for cts 2,&.

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- 2 Hit L Heel (ct 1); stamp R with wt (ct &); stamp L with wt (ct 2).
- 3 Step bkwd on R (ct 1); step on L heel in front of R, L knee straight (ct &); step in place on R (ct 2); lift on R (ct &).
- 4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk, but omit final lift.
- 5-15 Repeat meas 1-4 three times, but omit meas 4 last time.
- 16 End with 3 stamps in place L,R,L (cts 1,&,2).

IV. TRAVEL WITH TWO-STEPS AND RUNS

- 1 Facing LOD, step fwd on R heel (ct 1); step on L near R heel (ct &); step fwd on R (ct 2) as arms open out.
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk, fists returning to waist. Body leans back a little on meas 1-2.
- 3-4 Run fwd in LOD with 4 steps R,L,R,L (cts 1,2,1,2) ending knees while kicking ft up in back, body leaning fwd from hips, back straight. Look twd ctr.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-2 three more times (4 in all).

V. LARGE STEPS SIDEWARD

- 1-2 Facing ctr, take large low leap sdwd R on R (ct 1); large step on L across in back of R (ct 2); large step to R on R, bending knee (ct 1); raise L leg quite high before placing L heel diag fwd L, leg extended, wt over R ft, look at extended ft (ct 2).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 but stamp R beside L, no wt, on final ct.

VI. TRAVEL WITH TWO-STEPS AND RUNS

- 1-16 Repeat Fig IV. End facing ctr, heels together, toes turned out, wt on both ft.

VII. SUSIE-Q MOVING SIDEWARD IN LOD

- 1 Move L toe and R heel twd R (so toes are together) (ct 1); move L heel and R toe twd R (so heels are together) (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- 3 Move R heel to R, at same time lift L leg diag bkwd to L (knees together, L knee bent) (ct 1); step on L across in front of R, at same time move R toe to R (ct 2).
- 4 Move L toe to R, at same time left R leg diag bkwd to R (knees together, R knee bent) (ct 1); step on R beside L, at same time move L heel to R (ct 2). End with heels together, toes turned out.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three more times (4 in all)

ENDING

- 1 Hit L Heel (ct 1); stamp R heel fwd, no wt (ct 2).
- 2 Leap bkwd onto R, bending knee (ct 1); stamp L heel diag fwd L, knee straight, wt over R ft (ct 2).

During meas 2 hands describe a circular pattern to end extended at sides about waist level.