

MALŪNELIS (THE LITTLE MILL)

(Lithuania)

The beauty of the movements of the mill left a great impression on the Lithuanian folk dancer. Many "mill" dances are done in the country, one more elaborate than the other. (See Note at end of description.)

Music: Record: Malunas, Folkraft 1052
Folk Dancer M-H 1098

Source: Dance of Lieutuva, V. F. Beliajus

Formation: Circle of 8 cpls, boys twd the ctr facing ptrs. Ptrs join both hands. Running steps throughout dance. Each figure except the Star requires one 8 measure phrase of music.

Figure I

Sway joined hands, first to boy's R, then L. Release hands. Boys circle CW, girls CCW, until back to ptrs and places (at second meeting). Use running steps. Music B and repeat.

Figure II

Join hands again and sway.

Star: Ptrs pass each other with R shoulders, 4 steps for each passing, boys going out of circle, girls into circle. Reverse by going bkwd, passing with L shoulders (a type of a pointed Do-si-do). Repeat the same figure with a new person to the R, passing each other with R shoulders and back with L. Continue this pointed Do-si-do, progressing twd the R until back to original ptr. When back to ptrs, join hands and sway as above.

Figure III

Form a large double mill of two cpls to each spoke. Ctr cpls join hands to form the hub, R arm around girl's waist, her L hand on boy's R shoulder. Outer cpl, independent of inner cpl, place their hands around each other's waist in back. Inner cpls mark time in place. Outer cpls move on to the next spoke of mill with two steps (1 meas). All stamp 3 times (1 meas). Repeat three more times to Music A until back in place. Now consolidate the mill with the outer cpls attaching themselves to inner cpls and the entire double mill runs fwd.

Figure IV

Boys in the inner circle retain their joined L hands. Their R hands are joined with the L hands of the outer boys and form arches. All girls join hands in a circle and run CW beneath the arches formed by the boys; boys run CCW. Boys now run bkwd, still retaining hand hold, while girls reverse direction and run under the arches to R.

MALUNELIS (continued)

Extra Figures:

When meeting ptr, the two boys lower their joined hands over their own girl's inside hands and form a circle, running CW for 16 steps, and CCW for 16 (2 cpls in each little circle).
R hand mill (star) for 16 steps, and L hand mill for 16.

All boys join hands in a large circle. Girls place their L hand in FRONT of their own ptr's clasped hands. Free hand on skirt. Run CCW increasing length of stride until a wind is created. Dance off in a skating pos (hands joined behind back).

NOTE: Any grade school age group could perform this dance. For younger groups omit the Star figure. Also, additional figures can be added just before exit to make the dance longer (see descriptions at end of dance). The Folkraft record and the Michael Herman record both are long enough to use an entire gamut of figures. The Folkraft record is excellent for younger groups as it is a slower record. The Michael Herman record is excellent for more advanced and faster groups. Except for the Star figure, all other figures require 16 running steps for each direction.

Presented by Vyts Beliajus