

SNUSPOLKA
(Norway)

This polka, originally from Finland, tells a story about the taking of snuff. This version is one that I have danced in Norway; in some places, the order of figures varies. The name means "snuff polka." This description is as Anne-Lise Sorlie of Sarpsborg, Norway taught it in 1976.

Pronunciation:

Record: Cord-1 (EP). "Stoggen" is the name of the tune used.
2/4 meter

Formation: Cpls in a circle: M face LOD, W face ptr (RLOD). M fold arms in front at shldr level, W hold skirts.

Meas

Pattern

- Do a new Fig each time through the dance (see below).
- 1-8 M dance 8 polka steps fwd, beg L ft. W dance 8 polka steps, beg R ft, turning to the R (CW). She does 1/2 turn on each polka step.
Polka step (L): Step on L (ct 1); step on ball of R ft beside L (ct &); step fwd on L (ct 2).
Throughout meas 1-8, all move in LOD.
- 9 Standing on both ft, facing ptr, clap thighs with both hands (ct 1); clap own hands together at about waist level (ct 2).
- 10 Do Fig to first side.
- 11 Repeat meas 9.
- 12 Do Fig to second side.
- 13 Repeat meas 9.
- 14 Do Fig to first side (ct 1); to second side (ct 2).
- 15 Repeat meas 9.
- 16 Do Fig to first side.
- FIGURES: 1. Greeting: Shake R hands with ptr, L hands on hips (fingers fwd, thumb bkwd).
2. Take snuff: M make motion of sniffing snuff off of R hand, turning head slightly to L. L hand on hip. W put both hands on hips and turn head slightly to R, looking somewhat away from the M with a disapproving expression.
3. Sneeze: M twist slightly to L and sneeze loudly, shielding mouth from ptr with R hand. L hand on hip. W do as in Fig 2 (take snuff).
4. Flaunt: M lean back, crossing arms in front at shldr level. W lean fwd and extend both hands in front of face, L thumb on nose and R thumb on L little finger. Wiggle fingers.
5. Slap: M swing R arm as if to slap W on L cheek. M have free hand at side. W twist to R and clap both hands beside R thigh (to simulate the noise of a slap).

SNUSPOLKA (Continued)

6. Making up (hug): Both lean slightly fwd from the hips. "Hug" ptr by putting R hand over ptr L shldr and L hand on ptr waist. Put R cheek to R cheek with ptr. On meas 14 do not change arms on ct 2, but simple change to L cheeks. Do meas 16 to the first side.
7. Greeting: Same as Fig 1.

Note: Figures are described to first side; second side is the opposite.