

DANCE LIGHTLY

"Dance Lightly" was a favorite of North German youth groups in the 1920's. It is a strong favorite of Chicago folk dance groups and provides the Dunsings with the title of their little folk dance volume, *Dance Lightly*.

Formation:

Single circle of couples facing in, man with his partner on his right.

Words of song:

1. a. Dance lightly, hop sprightly,
Come, let us be gay,
b. Dance lightly, smile brightly, and sway.
c. High up in the tree tops sweet voices of
spring,
They whisper, they rustle, and sing.

Chorus:

- a. Tra, la-la, la, la-la, la-la-la-la-la-la,
b. Tra, la-la, la, la-la, la-la-la-la.
c. Tra, la-la, la, la-la, la-la-la-la-la-la,
d. Tra, la-la, la, la-la, la-la-la-la.
2. a. Your eyes are so bright and your smile is
so gay,
b. I know now that spring's here to stay.
c. It's right, dear, to dance and to love in the
spring,
So, let us be happy and sing.

Action:

1. a. Hands joined in a circle, all do 4 step-rise-swings in place: Step left on left foot, rise on left foot while swinging right leg across (3 counts). Step right on right foot, rise on right foot while swinging left leg across (3 counts). Repeat both.
b. Step left on left foot next measure (3 counts), close right foot to left foot and at the same time rise up on toes (3 counts), down, next measure (3 counts).
c. Repeat action *a* and *b* in reverse, starting with right foot.

Chorus:

- a. Hands still joined, circle left in following manner: Step on left foot (3 counts), step on right foot (3 counts); 6 short running steps (6 counts) beginning with the left foot. (Cue: left, right, run-2-3-4-5-6.)
b. Repeat *a* in same direction.
c. Circle moves to right with same action as in *a*; 2 slow steps, then 6 running steps.
d. Repeat *c*.
2. a. Partners face each other and join both hands. Action is the same as in 1 *a*, *b*, and *c*, except it is done in a small circle by each couple.
b. As they execute the step-close-rise of 1 *b*, they turn half way around clockwise.
c. Repeat *a* and *b* moving counterclockwise to original place.

Chorus:

Action as above. Couples keep hands joined, extend right arms and bend left arms, and come closer together. Take small steps and swing. Starting with the left foot they do: step left, step right, then 6 running steps clockwise, and repeat. Then they reverse by extending left arms and bending right arms to face counterclockwise, and repeat the action in this direction: right, left, run 2-3-4-5-6. Repeat.

Summary:

1. a. Left-rise-swing, right-rise-swing,
Left-rise-swing, right-rise-swing.
b. Left-2-3, close-2-3, up-2-3, down-2-3.
c. Right-rise-swing, left-rise-swing,
Right-rise-swing, left-rise-swing,
Right-2-3, close-2-3, up-2-3, down-2-3.

Chorus:

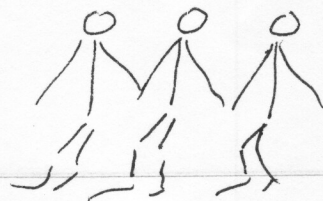
- a. Left, right, run-2-3-4-5-6,
b. Left, right, run-2-3-4-5-6.
c. Right, left, run-2-3-4-5-6,
d. Right, left, run-2-3-4-5-6.
2. The same as 1.

Credit:

From *Dance Lightly*, by Gretel and Paul Dunsing. Used by permission.

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Dance Lightly



Circle dancers hands held in V position

All step to R on R - Swing L

Diagonally to R - Step on L - Swing R

Diagonally to L - Step on R ~~etc~~ to R

Close step with L then again step to R.

Repeat above with opposite footwork -

Travel CC start w R foot stepping

Slow - Slow quick quick quick quick quick ~~jump~~

Repeat then ~~for~~ Reverse direction on last quick step -

Line now travels CW - same footwork.