

Vo luziakh

(Russia)

Vo luziakh, which translates as "in the field," is a traditional khorovod (round dance) from the Archangelsk region and is in a spiral pattern. The roots of all spiral pattern dances in Russia are to be found in the pagan era of the eastern Slavic people as they performed ritual spring dances. The spiral leads all dancers to the center (of the world or Mother Earth). The spiral out is the symbol of being reborn, just as nature renews itself in spring. Another thought is that the adolescents go back to Mother Earth in order to be initiated (reborn) as adults. Only women could (and still do) lead these kinds of dances. Hennie Konings, who did the research for this dance, introduced it in Germany 1991.

Pronunciation:

Cassette: Konings – Stockton 1996; Stockton 1993 Side B/3 2/4 meter

Formation: Dancers in a circle facing in LOD. All hands joined in V-pos. One dancer is designated as the leader.

Steps: Walk: One step to a ct.

Stamping Step: A step that takes wt and makes noise.

Running Scuff Step (2 to a meas): Low leap fwd onto R (ct 1); scuff L heel fwd (ct &); repeat with opp ftwk (cts 2, &).

Meas

Pattern

INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. THE WIND-UP

- 1-3 Beg R, walk 4 steps in LOD (meas 1-2). Dance a stamping step on R fwd in LOD (meas 3, ct 1); dance 2 stamping steps L, R in place (cts &, 2). During meas 3, the leader releases R hand (held with R-hand neighbor) and starts to lead the group in a CCW spiral.
- 4-6 Still moving in LOD, repeat meas 1-3 with opp ftwk.
- 7-9 Beg R, walk 6 steps in LOD.
- 10-11 Making 1/4 turn CCW to face ctr, walk 4 steps twd ctr.
- 12 Using longer steps, walk bkwd R, L.
- 13-60 Repeat ftwk of meas 1-12 four times. Music speeds up gradually until walking steps become running steps. The leader should be at the center of the spiral.

II. THE UNWINDING

- 1-72 Change to a Running Scuff Step. The leader turns to R and leads the line CW to unwind. When clear of the last dancer, the leader changes direction and leads the line CCW to form a larger circle. Leader continues until he can rejoin hands with last dancer. Continue circling until music ends. End facing ctr, ft together.

Presented by Hennie Konings

Description by Ruth Ruling and Joyce Lissant Uggla