

Zuraw

Pronunciation: ZHOO-ruff

Record: ZM-46729 "Tańce ludowe z Polski - Volume 2" (Folk Dances From Poland), side A, band 6, available from Ada Dziewanowska.

Zuraw is an old waltz from the region of Kurpie Zielone [KOOR-pyeh zyeh-LOH-neh] or Green Kurpie in northeast Poland. The name of the dance, Zuraw, crane in English (both the bird and the hoisting device), might have been derived from a special arm hold of the dancing couple in one of the figures. The dense forest with which the Kurpie region was once covered created a separation from the neighboring regions and their influences. This isolation helped the preservation of the folk culture of the Kurpie people. Zuraw has been danced for many years. It has undergone changes and even the oldest people do not remember how it was actually done. It is kept alive, however, by local dance groups in places like Czarnia, Myszyniec, and Kadzidło. In these and other villages young people try to preserve their heritage by practicing together with their elders the old art of dancing, singing, playing musical instruments, and making costumes. The dance was shown to Ada in 1977 by the group "Kurpianka" in Kadzidło. It is also described in two books by Grażyna Dąbrowska, Tańce Kurpiów Puszczy Zielonej (Dances of the Kurpie from the Green Forest Region), Warszawa 1967, and Taniec ludowy na Mazowszu (Folk Dances of Mazovia), Kraków 1980. The tune of Zuraw is composed of three melodies (all of which may be repeated once or several times) and a final 2-meas codetta. Such a conclusion of the dance is characteristic of many Kurpie tunes.

STEPS AND STYLING

Turning Waltz Step is done on flat feet, moving in LOD. Step described for M, W reverses ftwk: bending knees, dance with R ft a long step fwd, starting a 1/2 CW turn (ct 1); dance with L ft a smaller step bkwd, completing 1/2 CW turn (ct 2); step on R ft beside L ft (ct 3). Repeat of Step is done with opp ftwk.



Przytup [PSHIH-toop): 2 stamps in place (cts 1,2); hold (ct 3).

Running Waltz Step: three small, flat, springy running steps (cts 1,2,3); the first step may be danced as a small leap. Repeat of Step is done with opp ftwk.

The "Crane" Arm Pos: ptrs facing in opp dir with R sides adjacent; extend R arm to R, in front of ptr, bend L arm all the way, both upper- and fore-arm in a vertical pos, close to own body; hold ptr's R hand with your L hand close to your L shldr. Reverse the hold for the L sides adjacent pos.



FORMATION

Cpls around the room in Closed Ballroom Pos, joined arms extended to side, M facing LOD, W facing ptr. Beg all Figs M with R ft, W with L ft.

PATTERN

Music 3/4

Measures

INTRODUCTION

- 1-2 No action.
- I. WALTZ AND TWO STAMPS (Mel A - 8 meas)
- 1 Dance 1 Turning Waltz Step.
- 2 Dance Przytup (M-LR, W-RL).
- 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2, ptrs reversing ftwk.
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4.

(cont.)

II. TURNING WALTZ (Mel B - 6 meas repeated)

- 1-5 Dance 5 Turning Waltz Steps. Note: M will end facing RLOD, W - LOD.
6 Dance Przytup (M-LR, W-RL).
7-12 Repeat action of meas 1-6 (Fig II), ptrs reversing ftwk.

III. THE "CRANE" FIGURE (Mel C - 12 meas repeated)

- 1-12 Acquiring the "Crane" Arm Pos, with 12 Running Waltz Steps turn CW, making as many revolutions as is comfortable: on ct 1 of each odd meas ptrs may tilt head sideways away from each other, and on ct 1 of each even meas - twd each other.
13-24 With a 1/2 CW turn acquire L sides adjacent pos and repeat action of meas 1-12 (Fig III) with same ftwk and head movement but in opp dir. End with M facing LOD, W - RLOD.
Variation to 2nd part of Fig III (W end meas 12 with no wt on R).
Use slightly longer Running Waltz Steps.
13-16 Acquiring Closed Pos, both facing LOD and slightly twd ptr, outside hands joined fwd, arms rounded, move in LOD.
17-18 Dance 1 full CCW cpl turn.
19-22 Repeat action of meas 13-16 (Variation).
23-24 Dance a 1¹/₄ CCW cpl turn and end with M facing LOD, W - RLOD.

IV. WALTZ AND TWO STAMPS (Mel A - 8 meas)

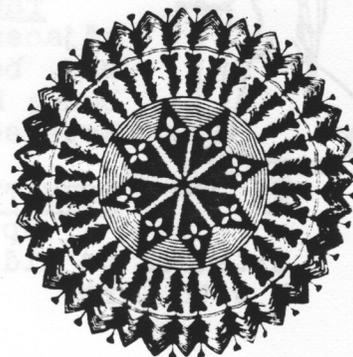
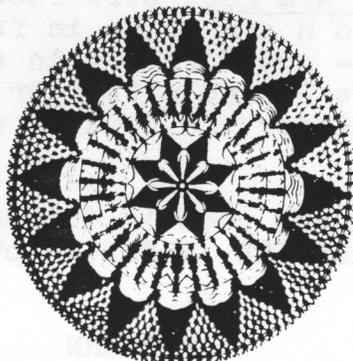
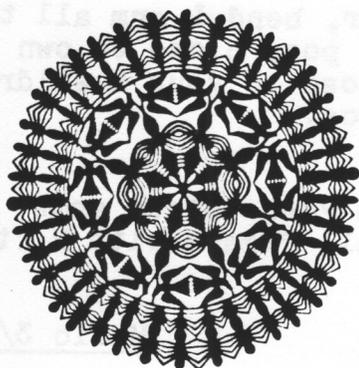
- 1-8 Repeat action of Fig I.

V. TURNING WALTZ (Mel B - 6 meas played 3 times)

- 1-12 Repeat action of meas 1-12 (Fig II).
13-18 Repeat action of meas 1-6 (Fig II).
Note: with each repetition of the 6 meas of Mel B the tempo is faster and the dancing speeded up.

VI. FINAL TURN (Codetta)

- 1-2 Release hold of inside arms, raise the joined outside hands, W: with 4 steps (cts 1,2,3 of 1st meas and ct 1 of 2nd meas) and a hold (cts 2,3 of 2nd meas) dance 1 or 2 CW turns under the joined arms; M: help ptr to turn.



Dance introduced in 1977 by Ada Dziewanowska at a workshop for the Alliance College "Kujawiaki" performing ensemble in Cambridge Springs, PA and at the 1983 Oregon State University Folk Dance Camp in Corvallis, ORE. Do not reproduce these directions without the Dziewanowskis' permission.