

BANDURA KOZACHOK

(Ukraine)

Kozachok (Koz-ah-chok) literally translated means "Little Cossack". The Bandura is a folk instrument (similar to a big mandolin) used since the 16th century. This dance is an arrangement of typical Ukrainian steps, and was introduced by Anatol Joukowsky at Folk Dance Camp, University of the Pacific, in 1963. The dance tells the story of a boy offering a gift to his girl, and of her acceptance of it.

MUSIC: Record: Bruno BR 50002: "An Evening With the Zaporozhsky Cossacks" Side B, Band 1. Bruno BR 50046: "Moiseyev Dance Ensemble" Side A, Band 7. Monitor MF 301: "Songs and Dances of the Ukraine", Vol I, Side 2, Band 2. Monitor MXD 900: "Folk Dance", Side 2, Band 4.

FORMATION: Any number of cpls in a circle, ptrs facing, about 6 ft apart. W has back to ctr, back of hands on hips. M face ctr, hands clasped behind back. M should have gift in pocket (a flower, ribbon, necklace, pair of shoes, etc).

STEPS AND STYLING: Walk*; Pas de Basque*; Buzz Step*: This is slower than usual. Step flat on R (ct 1), push off with L toe (ct 2).
Russian Skip: Timing same as ordinary skip, but knees are turned out, and each step is placed behind other ft.

Prysiadka: (one to 2 meas): Assume squatting pos with knees turned out, back erect (meas 1). Hands may be on hips or drop between knees. Rise as indicated in description (meas 2).
Duck Walk: Assume squatting pos, head and trunk straight (ct 1). Arms folded, or hands on hips. Still in squat pos, bring L ft in arc from back to front, and step fwd on L (ct 2). Next step would be done with R, and continue alternately. Hands on hips always means back of hands on hips.

NOTE: These are big, strong people. Make pas de basque "earthy" - not lightly skimming. When done by M alone, they almost become 3 stamping steps. This is an inventive dance: M should feel free to do what they wish and can do well. It is better to substitute a simpler step rather than to do poor prysiadkas. Pantomime is all-important in this dance; without it, the steps are nothing.

*Described in Volumes of Folk Dances from Near and Far, published by Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., 1095 Market Street, San Francisco, California.

MUSIC 4/4, 2/4 PATTERN

Measures No Introduction.

I. SLOW WALK AND CIRCLING

- 1-2 Beginning R, walk 7 slow steps (one to each ct) to own R. Close L to R with no wt (meas 2, ct 4) and prepare to change direction.
- 3-4 Beginning L, walk 7 slow steps to own L. Close R to L with no wt. Finish facing ptr.
- 5-8 Beginning R, make 1 CW circle with ptr. Keep R shoulder twd ptr, and watch ptr. Step R, L, R, close L to R with no wt (meas 5), and L, R, L, close R to L with no wt (meas 6). This will complete 1/2 of circle. Repeat action of meas 5-6 (Fig I) to complete circle and finish in own place, facing ptr.

II. PRESENTING THE GIFT

- 1-2 W watch as M presents gift. M take gift from pocket with a flourish, and place it on floor in front of W, 3 or 4 ft away from her.
- 3 M walk 4 steps (beginning R) to stand at L side of W.
- 4 M point to gift with L hand while placing R arm around W shoulders.
- 5 W shrug off M arm, and walk to own R (R, L, R, close L to R with no wt). M fold arms and watch W.
- 6 W walk back to place (L, R, L, close R to L with no wt), all the while observing the gift, and ptr.
- 7 W walk to gift (R, L, R, close L to R with no wt), ending almost facing in LOD.
- 8 W lightly kick gift away with L ft.
- 9-12 Beginning L, W walk 4 steps back to original place. At same time, M take 16 steps to walk over, pick up gift, put it in pocket, and face ptr. W just watch, after meas 9.
- 13-14 Ptrs, hands on hips, change places with 8 walking steps, (begin R, and pass L shoulders) making CCW arc, and finish with 1/2 turn L.
- 15-16 With 8 more steps, retrace arc, passing R shoulders, and returning to place. M finish with 3/4 turn R to end with back to ctr, in stride pos with arms folded. W finish with 1/4 turn R to end behind M, facing him, and about 2 ft from him. M is irked at ptr.

MUSIC
2/4III. WOMAN TEASES MAN

- 1-2 M stand ignoring W. W, hands still on hips, now try to attract M attention. W step R, twd M (meas 1, ct 1). Quickly rising onto R toe, W give M a good nudge with R shoulder (meas 1, ct 2). W step back

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to place with 3 quick steps (L, R, L) (meas 2, ct 1, &, 2).

- 3-6 W repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig III) two more times. M still ignore her.
- 7-8 W walk in CW arc (R, L, R, close L to R with no wt) to stand on outside of circle, trying to face M. At same time, M take 4 steps in place to make 1/2 turn R, thus facing ctr of circle, with back to ptr.
- 9-14 Beginning L, W repeat action of meas 1-6 (Fig III). M ignore W.
- 15-16 W turn L in place to face LOD (L, R, L, close R to L with no wt). M turn 1/4 to R with 4 steps, beginning R, to face LOD. M place R arm around W waist, holding WR hand at waist; WL hand on MR shoulder. M extend L arm diag L, palm up.

IV. PAS DE BASQUE

- 1-8 Beginning R, cpl dance 8 pas de basque steps LOD (CCW).
- 9-14 Turn in place CCW 2 or 3 times with 6 pas de basque steps (M back up).
- 15-16 M lead W over to his L side with 2 pas de basque steps. Hand pos same as before, but reversed.
- 17-23 Turn in place CW (M back up) with 7 pas de basque steps.
- 24 M release W on outside of circle, End ptrs facing, M back to ctr.

V. SKIPS AND PRYSIADKAS

- 1-3 Beginning with R behind L, W dance 6 Russian Skip steps, moving bwd a little bit. (Hands are on hips). Take a small, quick hop on last of meas 3.
- 4 Moving fwd a little bit, W step R, L, R (ct 1, &, 2).
- 5-8 W repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig V) but beginning L behind R. Throughout W action of meas 1-8 (Fig V), M watch W, and clap hands on first ct of each meas.
- 9-16 M do 4 prysiadkas, landing on heels, and using hands naturally. W make CW circle around M with 8 pas de basque steps, beginning R. M face W all the time. End ptrs facing, W back to ctr.
- 17-24 W turn once in place, slowly to R, with 8 slow buzz steps, R hand high, L hand on hip, as M, hands on hips, makes CW circle around W with 6 pas de basque steps (meas 17-22, Fig V). On meas 23-24, M do 1 prysiadka, landing with wt on R and L heel extended. Extend arms naturally.
- NOTE: Instead of prysiadkas, M can circle W with 14 Duck Walk steps, and rise on meas 24 to same ending pose as with prysiadkas.

VI. WOMAN ACCEPTS GIFT

- 1-8 M: Gesturing to others to "come along", M pass ptr by R shoulder and

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go into ctr with 4 long steps (meas 1-2, Fig VI). M take gift from pocket, placing it in L hand (meas 3-6, Fig VI). Pantomime here tells that obviously the W is weakening, and that M should try again. M return to outer circle with 4 steps, beginning R, and offer gift to ptr (meas 7-8, Fig VI).

W: Dance 4 pas de basque steps in LOD (meas 1-4, Fig VI). On first pas de basque (when passing R shoulders with ptr), W move a little out from ctr so as to widen circle. Begin with hands on hips and gradually extend them fwd and out, palms up. Making 1/2 turn CW, dance 4 pas de basque steps RLOD, back to ptr (meas 5-8, Fig VI). On last meas, W accept gift from ptr with her R hand. M put R arm around W waist and extend L hand out to L, palm up. W place L arm around M shoulder (or L hand on M R shoulder). W extend R hand diag fwd R, displaying gift.

- 9-22 Beginning R, cpl dance 14 pas de basque steps, turning CCW (M back up).
- 23-24 M start as if to change W to L side, as in Fig IV, meas 15-16. Instead, he puts L arm around W neck, and gives her a big hug -- and maybe, a kiss on the cheek.