

Biały Mazur (Poland)

Biały Mazur (bee-AH-wee MAH-zoor) is a Polish national dance known throughout that country since 1596, the year Warsaw became the capitol of Poland. Its origin comes from the villages of central Poland, the Mazowsze region. The dance was taken over from the peasants by the gentry (szlachta) and reflects their style of life. Towards the end of the 18th century, the Mazur was adopted for the repertoire of the manor houses, ballrooms and the stage. In the 19th century, it was danced in all the great capitols of Europe.

The Mazur is a dance filled with verve and spirit. Its changing accents within each measure give it a lively and fiery character. Dancers progress through any number of distinctive patterns. Karol Mastenhauser in his work, "Mazur and Its Principles," published in Warsaw in 1894, describes 150 figures of the dance. The following arrangement was taught by Jacek and Bozena Marek at the 1997 University of the Pacific Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

Music: CD - Dance Poland 1997, Band 21. 3/4 meter

Formation: Sets of 4 cpls in one big circle. Ptrs face, M back to ctr, arms straight down; W hold skirts. Whenever hands are free, W holdskirts. Cpl 1 is at the LOD end of the 4-cpl set.

Steps and Styling: Bieg Mazurowy (byeg mah-zoo-RAH-vee)- Mazur Run: Bend R knee slightly in preparation for leap (ct ah); short leap fwd onto L, landing with slight bend of L knee and extending R leg fwd (ct 1); long step fwd on R, landing first on ball of R ft (ct 2); long step fwd on L (ct 3). Step alternates. May also begin with wt on L ft and leaping onto R (ct 1).

When moving into an open ballroom pos, W to R of ptr, start with the short leap (ct 1) onto the outside ft (M L, W R). The style of the step is regal with a constant fwd driving momentum. It is important to keep the short leap on ct 1 moving fwd. The long steps in cts 2,3 are somewhere between a step and a run.

Hołubiec (hoh-WOO-byets)- Click Step: singular form of the word
Hołubce: (hoh-WOOB-tseh)- Click Steps: plural form

A: Hołubce - Sdwd movement to R: Hop on L ft and click heels together in the air, R leg straight and ft extended during click (ct ah); land on L ft (ct 1); step on R to R, ft turned out almost twd direction of movement (ct 2); step on L across in front of R (ct 3). Step repeats exactly.

Sdwd movement to L: Using opp ftwk, hop on R and move to L side.

B: Hołubce - CW turn with ptr: Cpls stand with R hips together, R hands on ptr L waist, L arm extended sdwd and diag high with elbows and wrist straight. Lean slightly away from ptr while looking at each other. Make a 1/2 CW turn on each meas. Hop on R starting a CW turn and click heels together in the air, L leg straight and ft extended during click (ct ah); land on R (ct 1); step fwd on L continuing the CW turn (ct 2); step fwd on R ending the 1/2 CW turn (ct 3). Step repeats exactly.

Klęk (klenk) - Kneeling: M kneel while W circle CCW around ptr with Bieg Mazurowy step. M R, W L hands are joined.

Meas 1: M: Leap onto L ft (ct ah); kneel on R knee (R knee near L heel, ft extended), L hand on hip (ct 1); hold (cts 2,3).

W: Beg R, start to move CCW around ptr with a Bieg Mazurowy step. Hold skirt with R hand.

Meas 2-3: M: Remain in place, watching ptr.

W: Continue around ptr with 2 more Bieg Mazurowy steps to complete one CCW circle.

Meas 4: M: Rise with 2 accented steps R,L (cts 1,2); hold (ct 3).

W: Acknowledge ptr.

Acknowledge (1 meas) M: Nod head while maintaining erect body pos.

W: With ft in closed pos, bend and straighten knees.

Measures 3/4 meter

PATTERN

INTRODUCTION

- 1-2 No action.
- 3 Step sdwd in LOD (M L, W R). Join M R, W L hands. M extend L arm with palm up out to L side; W hold skirt with R hand.
- 4 Step on M R, W L beside supporting ft and Acknowledge ptr. M lower L arm to side.

I. HOLUBCE, BIEG MAZUROWY IN LOD; PARTNERS CHANGE PLACES

- 1 Beg with hop on M R, W L, start to dance 1 Hołubiec (Click) step sdwd in LOD (ct 1); turn to face and move in LOD with 2 accented steps (M-L,R ; W-R,L)(cts 2,3). M describe an arc with his L arm across his body low to his R side. W still hold skirt with R hand.
- 2 Beg M L, W R dance 1 Bieg Mazurowy (Mazur Run) step in LOD, turning almost back-to-back, joined hands moving fwd. M describe an arc with L arm out to his L side. W still hold skirts.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk. End facing LOD. On meas 4, M describe an arc with his L arm across in front of his body. Still holding skirt, W may bring her R arm across in front of her body.
- 5-6 Beg M L, W R dance 2 Bieg Mazurowy (Mazur Run) steps in LOD. On meas 5, M describe an arc with his arm out to L side. If W has R arm across body, return it to R side.
- 7 Beg M L, W R, dance 1 Bieg Mazurowy (Mazur Run) step, changing places with ptr. M travel sdwd under joined hands in front of ptr. End facing ptr, W back to ctr.
- 8 Dance 2 accented steps (M-R,L ; W-L,R) in place (cts 1,2); hold (ct 3). Change hand hold to M L, W R hands.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 with opp ftwk. On meas 15, W move in front of ptr to end on M R. End facing in LOD with M R, W L hands joined.

II. BIEG MAZUROWY, KLEK, TURNING HOŁUBCE

- 1-4 Beg M L, W R, dance 4 Bieg Mazurowy steps in LOD. During meas 4, change to L hands joined in front, M R arm around ptr waist.
- 5-6 With 2 Bieg Mazurowy steps, turn as a cpl 3/4 CCW in place. M end with back to ctr.
- 7-8 M: Raise joined L hands and release R arm from W waist. Stand and watch ptr dance.
W: With 2 Bieg Mazurowy steps, turn 1 1/2 times CCW under the joined L hands. End facing ptr and ctr.
- 9-12 Changing hand hold to M R, W L, dance one Klek (Kneeling) step. On meas 12, last ct &, step twd ptr on R and place R arm around ptr waist.
- 13-15 Dance 3 Hołubce (Turning Click) steps.
- 16 Stepping L,R open up to face ctr, W to R of ptr (cts 1,2); hold (ct 3).

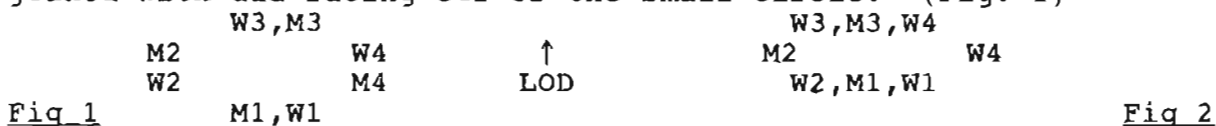
III. BIG CIRCLE CCW AND CW

- 1 Beg R, all dance 1 Bieg Mazurowy step in LOD and slightly twd ctr. At end, join hands in the circle about waist level.
- 2-4 Facing diag R of ctr and moving in LOD, dance 3 more Bieg Mazurowy steps.
- 5-7 Facing ctr, all dance 3 Hołubce (Click) sdwd R in LOD.
- 8 Dance 2 accented steps in place (R,L)(cts 1,2); hold (ct 3).
- 9-15 Repeat meas 1-7 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 16 Dance 2 accented steps in place (L,R) (cts 1,2); hold (ct 3).

INTERLUDE - FORM FOUR-COUPLE SETS

Sets are designated by numbering the cpls 1-4 before the dance begins. The cpl at the LOD end of the group is Cpl 1. Continue counting in a CW direction to name Cpls 2,3,4. Use Bieg Mazurowy (Mazur Run) step for the remainder of the dance unless otherwise indicated.

- 1-4 W 1 lead the set in a CCW direction to form a small circle, all facing ctr. Cpl 1 (W 1 leading) travel 3/4 around to end facing original LOD. Cpl 2 has its back to original ctr. Hands are joined with all facing ctr of the small circle. (Fig. 1)



At end of meas 4 form 2 trios facing across with hands joined about shldr level (M1 with W1 and W2, M3 with W3 and W4). M2 and M4 face each other without ptrs. (Fig 2)

IV. TRIOS AND ARCHES - MAN ONE AND THREE ACTIVE

- 1 Trios move twd each other.
- 2 Acknowledge facing dancer.
- 3-4 Move bkwds to place.
- 5-6 Trios change sides by releasing hands and passing R shldr. Turn slightly to R so as to face opp dancer when actually passing through.
- 7-8 Individuals turn L (CCW) to face opp trio. Rejoin hands in the trios.
- 9-12 Trios raise joined hands. W on M R (W 2, W 4) each dance under the arch made by the other two, pulling M behind her. W on M L stand in place.
- 13-16 Repeat meas 9-12 with W on M L going under the arch formed by the other two with the M following her. W on M L stand in place.

V. TRIOS AND ARCHES - MAN TWO AND FOUR ACTIVE

- 1-16 Quickly make new trios as M 2 and M 4 join hands with adjacent W. New trios are: W3-M2-W2 facing W1-M4-W4. M 1 and M 3 are inactive. Repeat Fig IV.

VI. WOMEN STAR; MEN CIRCLE WITH HOŁUBCE STEPS

- 1-8 M: With arms out to sides, palms up, dance 8 Hołubce (Click) sdwd R in LOD. Make 1 full CCW circle around W.
W: Make a R-hand star in ctr of circle, turning it CW twice around. End in front of ptr, back to ctr.
- 9-16 Repeat Fig II, meas 9-16 (Klek, Hołubce turning with ptr). At the end, Cpl 1 will have backs to LOD with Cpl 3 facing LOD.

INTERLUDE - REFORM THE BIG CIRCLE

- 1-4 Each set quickly join hands in a line with W 1 as leader. W 1 lead the line CW to reform the big circle.

VII. BIG CIRCLE CCW AND CW

- 1-16 Repeat Fig III.

DANCE POLAND

Jacek and Bozena Marek have recently published a book describing folklore, costumes, and directions for 24 dances of Poland. Entitled **Dance Poland**, the book accompanies the CD listed at the beginning of the description of Biały Mazur.

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