

Čardáš
(Czechoslovakia)

This basic Slovak Čardáš (CHAR-dahsh) was taught by František Bonus in various places in California during the summer of 1979. This description follows his teaching at the University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

RECORD: DDGU 114005 Side B, Band 3 (45 rpm) 4/4 and 2/4 meter

FORMATION: Cpls at random about the dancing area. Ptrs facing, both hands joined straight across and held down. M hands over W. Posture is very erect, feet are closed and parallel.

STEPS and STYLING: Double Čardáš: Step on L to L side, knees straight (ct 1); step on R beside L, bending knees (ct 2); step on L to L side, knees straight (ct 3); close R ft to L (no wt) bending knees (ct 4). Step alternates.

Turning step: (2 per meas) Step on full R ft in front of L, with small flex of knee (ct 1); step on full L ft to L side, knee straight (ct 2); repeat exactly for cts 3,4. Step is also done with opp ftwk and direction.

Step-hop: (2 per meas) Step fwd on R (ct 1); low hop on R as L leg, with knee slightly bent, is lifted fwd (ct 2); repeat with opp ftwk (cts 3,4).

Key step: Name given by Dr. Bonus to a 3 step pattern that occurs often in Czech dances. Step fwd on R in front of L (ct 1); step on L to L side (ct 2); step on R beside L (ct 3); hold (ct 4). Step is also done with opp ftwk and direction.

When danced in 2/4 meter, Turning step, Step-hop and Key step are counted 1,&,2,&.

Pas de Basque: (2 per meas of 2/4 meter) Small leap sdwd onto L (ct 1); step on full R ft in front of L with partial transference of wt (ct ah); step on L in place (ct &); repeat with opp ftwk and direction (cts 2, ah, &).

Shoulder-Shoulder Blade pos: Ptrs facing, M hands on W back just below shoulder blades; W hands on M shoulders.

Couple Turn pos: CW: Hand pos is same as for shldr-shldr blade but L hand is on ptr upper R arm. Move a little to own L so R hips adjacent. CCW: L hips are adjacent and R hand is on ptr upper L arm.

Cpls may move about the floor during any of the Double Čardáš patterns. Dance begins with a slow tempo, changes to a medium tempo, and ends with a fast tempo.

Ftwk is same for M and W unless otherwise noted.

MUSIC 4/4 and 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

4/4

2 meas INTRODUCTION No action.

I. ANDANTE DOUBLE ČARDÁŠ; COUPLE TURN; HEEL SLAP

1-4 Beg M L, W R dance 4 Double Čardáš steps. M take wt on last step (meas 4, ct 4).

5-8 Beg R ft, in cpl turn pos with R hips adjacent, dance 8 Turning steps CW.

9 Dance Key step turning to face ptr.

10-14 With L hips adjacent, repeat meas 5-9 with opp ftwk and direction.

15-18 In shldr-shldr blade pos repeat meas 1-4 (Double Čardáš).

19-23 Repeat meas 5-9 (cpl turn CW and Key). On meas 23 M take W R hand in L.

24-27 M raise joined hands
W: Beg R ft turn CW in place with 8 Turning steps. L arm is down with hand held about 8 inches from body to keep skirt from flying up. Make 4 or more turns.
M: Circle once CCW around ptr: Step fwd on R (cts 1-2); step fwd on L (cts 3-4) but on ct 4 bend R knee and raise R ft so as to slap outside of R heel with R hand.
Repeat action (meas 25). Complete the circle with 4 walking steps beg R, one step to 2 cts (meas 26-27). Hold R hand up and out to side about head level when not slapping heel.

28 M face ptr and while dancing Key step turn W CW once more. W step R,L,R (cts 1,2,3); hold (ct 4). End facing ptr with ft together.

II. ALLEGRETTO DOUBLE CARDÁS TO LEFT; TURN WITH STEP-HOP

Done in shldr-shldr blade pos but M arms and hands are in a straight line and hold W at side of upper rib cage with heel of hand.

1-4 Both beg L, dance 4 Double Cardás steps. Take wt on last step. M may give W a little twist on each step.

5-6 Beg R ft, in cpl turn pos with R hips adjacent, dance 4 Turning steps CW.

7 Continuing CW turn do 2 Step-hops: R,L.

8 Dance Key step turning to face ptr.

9-12 With L hips adjacent, repeat meas 5-8 with opp ftwk and direction.

13-16 Repeat meas 1-4 (Double Cardás).

17-18 Repeat meas 5-6 (Turning steps).

19 Continuing CW turn, dance 2 Step-hops. On first hop each turn 1/2 CW so L hips are adjacent and R hand is on ptr L upper arm. Second Step-hop is done bkwd.

20 Dance Key step turning to face ptr (to beg, step bkwd on R).

21-24 Repeat action of meas 17-20 with opp ftwk and direction. During Key step face ptr and join hands, palm to palm, straight across and overhead with about 2 ft between ptrs. At end, omit the hold (meas 24, ct 4) as next Fig begins on this ct.

2/4 III. ALLEGRO HEEL-TOE TWICE; PAS DE BASQUE AND FINALE

Hopping on R, touch L toe on floor diag bkwd L, heel up and knee turned in (upbeat of preceding meas).

1 Hopping on R, touch L heel fwd, toe turned out (ct 1); leaping onto L, touch R toe on floor diag bkwd R, heel up and knee turned in (ct &); hopping on L, touch R heel fwd, toe turned out (ct 2); leaping onto R, touch L toe on floor diag bkwd L, heel up and knee turned in (ct &).

2 Hopping on R, touch L heel fwd, toe turned out (ct 1); jump into stride pos (ct &); close ft together sharply (ct 2); hopping on R, touch L toe on floor diag bkwd L, heel up and knee turned in (ct &).

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 but on meas 4, ct 4 hold with ft together.

5-6 Beg R ft, in cpl turn pos with R hips adjacent, dance 4 Turning steps CW.

7 Continuing CW turn dance 2 Step-hops: R,L.

8 Dance Key step turning to face ptr.

9-12 With L hips adjacent repeat meas 5-8 with opp ftwk and direction. On Key step again join hands overhead. Omit hold on ct & of meas 12; instead, begin Heel-toe pattern again.

13-24 Repeat meas 1-12. Hold last ct & of meas 24 with hands joined overhead.

- 25 Beg L, Pas de Basque to L and R.
- 26 With low leap onto L, thrust R heel in front of L ft, toe and knee turned out, toe touching floor (ct 1); repeat with opp ftwk (ct &); with a jump close ft together (ct 2); hold (ct &).
- 27-28 Repeat meas 25-26.
- 29-32 Repeat meas 5-8 (CW turn, Step-hops and Key). Release ptr at end.
- 33-36 M: Facing ptr, small step on L to L side (ct 1); close R to L, no wt (ct &); repeat with opp ftwk (cts 2,&). Repeat all twice (meas 34,35). Step on L to L side (meas 36, ct 1); close R to L, no wt (ct &); step on R to R side (ct 2); stamp L in place with toe turned out (ct &). On each ct (1,&,2,&, etc.) claphands about forehead level, watching ptr. On last ct (stamp with L ft) extend arms sharply, L arm high, R arm low.
- W: Beg R ft, turn CW in place with Turning steps. Turn about 4 times but end facing ptr with ft together. Hands are down and out from body to keep skirt from flying up.



Costume of
Czechoslovakia
Moravia - Kyjov
Sketched by Eleanor Bacon
From the 1978 Costume Calendar