Hylkeen hyppely
(Finland)

Hylkeen hyppely (HOOL-keh'ên HOOP-peh-loo) is also known by its Swedish name Själaskuttan (SHAWL-ah-SHOOT-tahn). In both languages it means "seal's jump". The dance is from Kemiö Island in the Turku Archipelago. It was taught by Jussi Aronen and Lennu Ylänneva at the 1999 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp, and also by Susanna Daley at the 1977 Camp.


Formation: Cpls in circle, facing LOD (CCW) or in column formation; W is on M's R. Inside hands joined at chest height, outside hands down at sides or in fists on hips (wrists straight).

Steps and Styling: With live music, the musicians can tease the dancers by varying the length of the pause following the jumps in Fig. I, and the number of bounces in Fig. II.

Buzz step (3 to a meas): In this dance the Buzz Step always starts with the R ft, and is rather flat-footed. To move L or turn CW, step on R in front of L (ct 1); step on ball of L to L (ct &). To back up, step on R (ct 1) and then back on L (ct 2) so relative position of feet remains the same. Step repeats exactly.

Mazurka step (1 to a meas): Step fwd on outside ft with light stamp (ct 1); step on inside ft slightly in front of outside ft (ct 2); hop on inside ft, lifting outside leg in front and giving a slight kick fwd and back (ct 3). Step does not alternate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>3/8 meter</th>
<th>PATTERN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 meas</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION: No action.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>MAZURKAS WITH JUMPS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(If dancers are in a column, the column moves fwd and then circles to the L (CCW), ending up back in a column by the end of the figure.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>Beg. with outside ft, cpls dance 3 Mazurka steps fwd in LOD, inside hands held fwd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Step fwd on outside ft (ct 1); jump on to both ft turning to face ptr, with knees bent, heels together, toes out (cts 2); hold (ct 3). Joined hands (MR, WL) still held high and to the side.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>Repeat meas 1-4, but on jump (meas 8, ct 2) turn back to back with ptr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>Cpls dance 1 Mazurka step fwd and jump face-to-face as in meas 4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>Repeat meas 9-10, but on jump turn back-to-back with ptr.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
13-16 Repeat meas 1-4.

17-32 Repeat meas 1-16, but on meas 32 release hands and back away from ptr slightly on the jump.

II. SEAL POLSKA

Dancers raise elbows to shldr level with back of hands almost touching in front of chest. Hands hang loosely from wrists representing flippers of a seal (the flipper pos). If column formation is used, dancers remain in this formation for this entire Figure.

1 Dance 3 Buzz steps twd ptr.

2 Entwine forearms with ptr, elbows still at shldr level, and hands maintaining flipper pos (M's arms go under, behind, and then over W's arms). Dance one turn CW with 3 Buzz steps.

3 Disentangle arms from ptr and dance 3 Buzz steps bkwd to starting place.

4+ Bounce lightly down and up in place: with heels on floor, bend knees (ct 1), straightening knees rise onto balls of feet (ct &); repeat two more times (cts 2, & 3, &). At this point the musicians add 6 more beats, so the dancers continue bouncing to the end of the phrase (9 bounces in all).

5-8+ Repeat meas 1-4+.

9-10 Dance 4 Buzz steps twd ptr (cts 1, 2, 3, 1); jump on to both ft turning (M L, W R) back-to-back (ct 2); hold (ct 3).

11 Pause, hold flipper pos and bounce lightly 3 times (as in meas 4).

12 Jump to face ptr (M turns R, W L) (ct 1); bounce lightly twice (cts 2, 3).

13-14 Entwine arms as in meas 2; with 6 Buzz steps, dance 2 complete CW turns.

15-16+ Disentangle arms and back away from ptr with 3 Buzz steps (meas 15); repeat meas 4+.

17-32+ Repeat meas 1-16+. On meas 32+ the musicians add 12 more beats for a total of 21. During these last 21 beats slowly bend knees as if sinking into hole in the ice.
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