KATERINA  
(Ukrainian)

This dance description is presented by Lucile K. Czarowski as it was demonstrated to her by Peter Hladun and his Ukrainian dance group in Winnipeg, Canada.

MUSIC: Record: Columbia 27254F Katerina

FORMATION: This dance is arranged for four women and two men. It is sometimes danced by six women. An entrance figure is used. Women dance Figure one, two and three without the men. The men enter the dance on Figure four.

The Ukrainian dance groups in the United States and Canada dance primarily as concert or demonstration groups, not as recreation groups. The pattern of this dance, including the entrance and exit figures, is planned for a stage.

STEPS: Common step No. Two, Leap-run-run (Leap f.w.d. (ct. 1); close on little running st. (ct. and), little running step f.w.d. (ct. 2, and)).

Bend-Extend-step-step-step (Hop on R. ft. bringing L. heel in front of R leg halfway between knee and ankle, toe extended downward (ct. 1); hop again on R. ft. extending L. ft. f.w.d., toe near floor, L. knee straight (ct. 2); Step L. (ct. 1); step R. (ct. and); step L. (ct. 2, and). Same, starting reverse feet).

Step-Step-Step extend (step R. in place (ct. 1); step L. in place (ct. (and); step. R. in place at the same time extending L. ft. f.w.d. toe close to floor (ct. 2, and). Same, starting reverse feet. When men take this step the extended foot is twelve to sixteen inches from the floor.

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The W are paired and enter as 2 couples, one behind the other from left up stage. They circle in a counter-clockwise direction and finish in the center in a ring. The position of the W is as follows: The W on the left places her R hand on her partner's R hip, her L hand on her own hip. Her partner has her R hand on her own hip, her L hand holds her heads at her neck. Common step two is used (leap-run-run).

This step is used throughout the dance by both men and women unless stated otherwise. All dancers start with L. ft.

II. Circle Right and Left 16

The 4 W join hands in a circle (curled finger grasp) and starting with a high leap on common step number two, circle to the R for 8 measures. Reverse and circle to L for 8 measures. The circle is sometimes done using 4 measures for each direction.

III. Right Hand Star, Left Hand Star 16

The 4 W make a R hand star and circle for 8 measures. Reverse, form L. hand star and circle for 8 measures. The step used is bend-extend-step-step-step. Free hand is on the hip.

IV. Women to Corners. Men Enter.

The 4 W placing L. hand at back of neck (elbow back), and R. on hip, turn continuously to the L. each going to a corner of the dance space. Common step number two is used, W are numbered as follows: Number 1. up stage R., number 2. down stage L., number 3. down stage R., number 4. up stage L. (See diagram.)

At the same time, the M enter, one from up stage L. the other, up stage R. With hands on hips, they advance toward each other (4 measures) and slide side by side move to center of stage (4 measures).

V. Turn With Right Elbows Hooked, Left Elbows Hooked.

8 M hook R. elbows with L. hands on hips and turn (4 measures). Repeat with L. elbows hooked (4 measures). The W at the same time, each in her own corner, facing the center, take step-step-step extend. Hands are on hips.

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KATERINA (Continued)

Music 3/4

16

M advance to number 1 and number 2 W (4 measures). At the same time, number 3 and number 4 W advance to the center (4 measures). The two W in the center hook R elbows and turn (4 measures). Reverse with L elbows hooked and turn (4 measures). Free hand is on hip. At the same time, the M turn with number 1 and number 2 W in a similar manner. The 2 W who were turning in the center, place L hand on beads, R on hips and turning continuously to the L, return to own corners (4 measures). At the same time, the 2 M go to the center (4 measures).

Second repetition of music 16

M go to W 3 and 4 (4 measures), turn them with R elbows hooked (4 measures), L elbows hooked (4 measures) and then return to center (4 measures). At the same time, W number 1 and 2 advance to center (4 measures) turn with R elbows hooked (4 measures) L elbows hooked (4 measures) and return to own corners, as W 3 and 4 had previously done (4 measures).

8

The M turn with R elbows hooked (4 measures), L elbows hooked (4 measures). At the same time that the M are turning with R elbows hooked, the W take step-step-step extend. While M turn with L elbows hooked, the 4 W form an open semicircle in back of the M.

VI. Circle Right and Left

All join hands with curled fingers, forming a circle, facing the center. The 2 M are side by side, and the 4 W are side by side. All circle R (8 measures) and L (8 measures). At the beginning of the circle to the R, and the change to the L, the leap-step-step is taken very high.

VII. Thread the Needle

Third repetition of music

As much music as needed.

Finish at the completion of a phrase

The M drop hands with each other, and the circle opens into a shallow semicircle with one M at each end. THREAD THE NEEDLE FIGURE is then taken with the M on the R leading under the joined hands of the M on the L and the first woman. He leads the line around in back of the first W and she turns to her L, which brings M hand on her R shoulder while still remaining joined with the M on her L. His hand is now back of her shoulders. This threading continues until all are in a straight line center up stage. Each M puts his free hand on his hip. A suggested timing of music is, 3 measures each to go through the first, second and third arches, 4 measures through the fourth arch, and 4 measures for the lead man to turn and get his L hand on his R shoulder (32 measures in all).

VIII. Line, Forward and Back

16

The line, which now is facing the audience, travels toward them with step-step-step extend (4 measures). The line travels backward with the same step (4 measures). Repeat the forward and backward movements (8 measures).

IX. Serpentine

As much music as needed.

The M on the R jumps out and faces the W next to him, and with his R hand takes her R. The others, keeping their hands joined, lift them from their shoulders and hold them high during the exit. The leading M moves backward leading the line across the front of the stage in a serpentine and exits at the conclusion of a melodic phrase.

Note: The Ukrainians dance to “live music” which continues as long as the dance continues. When records are used, it is not necessary to dance until the record is finished, but one should never stop the music until after the completion of a melodic phrase. This is a rule which applies to the use of records for all folk dancing.

The name of this dance is sometimes spelled Kathryna as Katerina is the name Katherine or Katheryn in English. Katerina is also spelled Kateryna. Katerina is the most common spelling.