

## Kievskii Hopak (Киевский Гопак)

(Ukraine)

Kievskii Hopak (kee-EFF-skee hoh-PAHK) is from the vicinity of Kiev in the central region of the Ukraine. It is an example of the hopak family of Kozak social dances that have their origins in the early 16th century. They are predominately improvisational, boisterous, and with the pace of the music often changing from segment to segment. This version was choreographed by George and Irina Arabagi, and taught at the 2012 Stockton Folk Dance Camp. A longer and more complex hopak, choreographed by Henry (Buzz) Glass has been popular in California since 1946; see a published description in *Let's Dance!*, 2003, vol. 60, no. 7, pp 15-18.

CD: 2/4 meter Ukrainian Dance Workshop (Stockton Folk Dance Camp, 2012), Track 9

Formation: Couples in a circle facing CCW. M's L arm supports W's L arm extended forward in front (elbows bent comfortably). M's R hand on partner's R waist; W's R hand is on her R hip, fingers forward.

Steps & Danced lightly throughout.

Styling: **Running threes:** Very light running steps forward in line of direction. Low leap forward onto R ft with toe slightly down (ct 1); run fwd on L in front of R (ct &); run fwd on R ft (ct 2). Repeat with opposite footwork.  
**Pas de Basque:** Leap to R on R ft (ct 1), step on L in front of R (ct &), step on R in place (ct 2). Repeat with opp ftwk and direction. Can start with either ft.  
**Reel step:** Step on R ft behind L (ct 1), chug fwd on R (ct &), step on L behind R (ct 2), chug fwd on L ft (ct &). Can start with either ft.

Measures	2/4 meter	Pattern
1-2	<u>INTRODUCTION.</u> No action.	
	I. <u>RUNNING THREES</u>	
1-4	Both starting with R ft, dance 4 Running three steps in LOD (CCW).	
5-8	With 4 Running three steps, cpl rotates CCW (M backing up, W moving fwd).	
9-16	Repeat meas 1-8, and end facing center.	
	II. <u>TOE-HEELS</u>	
1-2	Keeping same hand holds, both touch R toe a little to R side turning heel up and outward (ct 1), touch R heel in same place with toe pointing outward (ct 2). Run in place, R,L,R (cts 1,&, 2).	
3-4	Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk.	
5	Moving to the R, take large step to R dipping down on R ft by slightly bending knee (ct 1), step L behind R, straightening R leg (ct 2).	
6-8	Repeat meas 5 three times.	
9-16	Repeat meas 1-8 continuing to move R. On meas 16 drop hand hold and back away a little from ptr.	

III. INVITATION AND PAS DE BASQUE

- 1-2 Still facing ctr, M invite ptr to dance by making heavy step on R ft while extending R arm twd ptr with a strong gesture and with palm up (ct 1), hold (ct &); W accept invitation by taking heavy step on L while placing L hand in M's R hand with light slap (ct 2), hold (ct &).
- 3 M Pas de Basque to the L (twd ctr) starting with step on L ft to L; W do the same with opp ftwk and direction; joined inside hands swing fwd (cts 1,&,2), hold (ct &).
- 4 Both Pas de Basque in the opp direction with opp ftwk to end facing each other; joined inside hands swing backward (cts 1,&,2), hold (ct &).
- 5-6 Repeat meas 3-4.
- 7 With hands on hips, M make half turn to L (CCW), stepping on L ft (ct 1), hop on L to complete half turn (ct 2). W place R hand on chest (to protect jewelry) while making half turn to R (CW), with step on R ft (ct 1), hop on R ft; L hand held down.
- 8 M complete turn to L (CCW) to face ptr with 2 running steps (R,L) (cts 1,&) and then stamp R ft without wt (ct 2). W complete turn to R (CW) to face ptr with 2 running steps (L,R, cts 1,&), and hold (ct 2).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 except on meas 16 M take only 2 steps, R (ct 1) and stamp L, no wt (ct 2), while W dance 3 tiny running steps (L,R,L, cts 1,&,2). Both open out to end facing ctr.

IV. REELS AND CHASSES

- 1-2 M dance 2 Reel Steps starting with a step behind on L ft (cts 1,&,2,&) and then reel back on L again (ct 1), and hold (ct 2). W do the same with opp ftwk.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk (M start back on R W on L). End with touch, no wt (M's R, W's L).
- 5-6 M move to R behind ptr with 3 steps: large step on R to R (ct 1), step on L ft next to R (ct 2), step to R on R swaying body to R and extending R arm up and out to side (ct 1), hold pose with R arm extended and L toe pointing L (ct 2). W do the same moving to L with opp ftwk and arm movements (L,R,L, hold).
- 7-8 Repeat meas 5-6 with opp ftwk and direction, returning to place, except that on meas 8, M step L (ct 1) and then R next to L (ct 2), turning to face ctr. W face ctr with a touch R ft and hold. Both ptrs place hands on waist (ct 2).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8, except on meas 16 M take only 1 step (L) to free R, and hold.

Dance repeats 1 time. On last ct, M and W pose with hands on hips and R ft slightly forward.