

Kosjatants

(Estonia)

Kosjatants (KOHS- yah-tahnts) is a progressive dance choreographed for stage performance in 1948 by Ullo Toomi from Tallinn. He put together elements of folk dances called Vana voortants, Mustjala kõrge, Viru valts, and Jämaja labajalg. Juha-Matti (“Jussi”) Aronen, who taught this dance at the 2003 Stockton Folk Dance Camp, thinks that the Voorvalss step (see Steps below) dates back in Estonia to about 1830. “Kosja” means a man who is going to propose marriage to a girl. Frequent partner changes in this dance give him plenty of options. The dance is also connected to weddings because the original dances on which it is based are often done at weddings.

CD: Estonian Dances, Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2003, band 10. 3/4 meter

Formation: Circle of cpls facing LOD, R hand in R, L hand in L held in front.

Steps: Waltz*, Front-Basket position*

Voorvalss Step: Waltz steps done in Front-Basket pos, M starting with L ft, W with R. The upper body bends in the direction of leading ft (i.e, foot used on ct 1). This means that cpls bend away from each other on odd measures, and toward each other on even measures.

Styling: In turning waltzes, the leading hands move slightly downward on first measure and up on second, and the body tilts slightly away and together as above.

**Described in the “General Glossary” of Steps & Styling (rev. 1996), published by the Folk Dance Federation of CA, Inc.*

| Meas | 3/4 meter | Pattern |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 4 meas | <u>INTRODUCTION</u> No action, except on meas 4, rise on to balls of ft and down. | |
| | I. <u>TURN UNDER; CHANGE PARTNERS</u> | |
| 1-6 | In Front-Basket pos dance 6 Voorvalss Steps in LOD beginning with outside ft. | |
| 7-8 | With 2 Voorvalss Steps W turn once CW under M's R arm; M continue waltzing fwd. | |
| 9-12 | Dance 2 turning waltz steps turning CW (meas 9,10); then with 2 waltz steps W turn CW under M's L arm, M dance in place. | |
| 13-16 | Repeat meas 9-12, but on meas 15-16 M turn out (to L) under own L arm. End with ptrs facing (M facing out), release hand hold. | |
| 17-18 | Passing R shldr, dance 2 Voorvalss Steps fwd (M twd outside, W twd ctr); on second meas each turn to own L to face ptr again. | |
| 19-20 | Dance 1 Voorvalss Step diagonally fwd to next ptr on R (meas 19); take R hands with new ptr and with 1 Voorvalss Step turn half way around to end with M on inside facing out, W facing in. | |
| 21-32 | Repeat meas 17-20 three more times (total of 4). On meas 32 W turn under M's R arm to end side by side facing LOD and assume Front-Basket pos. | |

II. CHANGE PLACES, TAPS

- 1-4 Dance 3 Voorvalss Steps fwd; on 4th meas, W dance with 1 waltz step across in front of M without releasing hands to face fwd on M's L side.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-3; on meas 8, W dance across in front of M to end with ptrs facing (drop hand holds), M on inside.
- 9-10 With 2 Voorvalss Steps, ptrs pass R shldr and continue straight fwd, M going out of circle and W straight in.
- 11-12 M take small step to L, still facing out, W step to R facing in (ct 1), tap ball of free ft (M's R, W's L) 2 times (cts 2,3); with 1 waltz step turn to face opp direction, M to L, W to R.
- 13-16 Repeat meas 9-12 moving in opp direction (M twd ctr, W twd outside).
- 17-24 Repeat meas 9-16 once more, except end in one circle hands joined with M facing in and W facing out.

III. CIRCLING, BACK TO BACK, FACE TO FACE

- 1-4 Dance 4 Voorvalss Steps CW (to M's L, W's R) in circle.
- 5-8 Drop hand holds and with one smooth motion, M turn slightly L, W slightly R, while gracefully lifting arms up and down to reconnect, but with M now facing out and W facing in, while continuing in RLOD (CW) with 4 Voorvalss Steps.
- 9-16 Drop hands and turn 1/2 to face in opp direction; M turn to R to face in, W turn to R to face out. Again bring arms up and down to reconnect hands, while continuing with 4 Voorvalss Steps in LOD (CCW) (meas 9-12). Then turn slightly (M to R, W to L) to face opp. direction (raising arms up and down) while reconnecting hands to dance 4 more Voorvalss Steps in LOD (M are facing out and W in). At end of meas 16, cpls hold inside hands while facing LOD side by side.
- 17-18 Dance 1 waltz step back to back and one face to face as joined hands swing fwd and back.
- 19-20 Swinging arms fwd again, W move on to M ahead with 2 Voorvalss Steps, making one complete turn to the R; M dance in place.
- 21-32 Repeat meas 17-20 three more time (4 in all). End with cpls facing LOD in Front-Basket pos.

IV. MAN CASTS, ELBOW TURNS

- 1-4 Repeat Fig. II, meas 1-4.
- 5-6 M cast off to R and with 2 Voorvalss Steps dance back to W behind moving behind her to end facing LOD; W dance in place but turn to face RLOD.
- 7-8 With 2 waltz steps, M turn W CW under R arm as both move in LOD.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8, but end in single circle with all facing in.
- 17-20 Dance 4 waltz steps moving CW (RLOD).
- 21-24 Hook R elbow with ptr and turn CW with 4 Voorvalss steps; end facing out of circle with hands joined.
- 25-28 Dance 4 Voorvalss Steps as circle moves CCW (LOD).
- 29-32 Hook L elbow with ptr and turn CCW with 4 Voorvalss steps; end facing ptr (M's R hand joined with W's L) and acknowledge.