

Kujony

(Poland)

(This description replaces the draft version erroneously published in the February issue of *Let's Dance*.)

Kujony (koo-YOH-nih) is a couple dance from the folk-lore rich region of Łowicz (WOH-veech). It is an example of a Kujawiak-type of dance, and has lyrical melodies and varied tempo. It includes a movement by the men symbolizing the use of a scythe in cutting wheat. The name is the local regional expression for a dance from the Kujawy region, which is the original source for Kujawiak dances. The dance was taught by Richard Schmidt at the 2004 Stockton Folk Dance Camp. He learned it from Sławomir Mazurkiewicz, a renowned choreographer from Łódź (woudzh). The Łowicz ethnographic region is famous for its heavy woolen costumes adorned with various colored stripes that simulate fields of crops arranged in fairly narrow rows.

CD: *Folk Dances from Poland, Vol. 1*, edited by Richard Schmidt; Band 1. 3/4meter

Formation: Circle of cpls in Semi-open Ballroom pos*, facing LOD; leading arms are parallel to the floor and fairly straight.

Steps: Basic step: A running waltz step, with long step on ct 1 and shorter steps on cts 2 and 3. Executed lightly and smoothly, either fwd, backward, or turning.

Kołysany (koh-WIH-sahn-nih): With feet widely astride, bend both knees (ct 1); slowly sway to L shifting wt to L ft as L leg is straightened; R leg is extended to the side with the toe pointed down on the floor (cts 2,3). Usually repeated with opp ftwk and direction, and can also begin to R instead of L. Feet do not move from initial stride pos during this figure.

Kolebany (koh-LEH-bahn-nih): Cpl dance a slow flat waltz turning CW making half a turn on each meas.

Od Sie Do Sie (OHD-sheh-DOH-sheh): A 4-meas sequence starting with ptrs turning away from each other and then back to face (the name literally means "from you to you"). With inside hands joined (held back) and free hands on hips, dance 1 Basic step moving fwd in LOD but turning 1/4 to face away from ptr (M start with L, W with R)(meas 1); joined hands swing fwd. Dance a second Basic step fwd (meas 2), but turn back to face ptr; joined hands swing back. Repeat meas 1, but drop joined hands and with both hands on hips, turn 1/2 instead of 1/4 so ptrs end up back to back and look at each other over shldr (M's L, W's R)(meas 3). On meas 4, W make a 3/4 turn to their L, moving slightly fwd in LOD, to face RLOD (step L, R, close L to R without wt); M turn to their R 1/4 turn to face ptr and LOD (step R, L, close R to L, no wt); in doing this turn M step back a little on first step to make room for ptr to turn.

Na Talarku (nah tah-LAHR-koo, meaning "on a coin"): Cpls in shoulder-waist pos, turn vigorously CW with series of step-closes, 6 steps per meas. M start with L ft, W with R. Turn as much as possible but end back in original position with M's back to ctr.

Scythe step: M face LOD and ptr, W face RLOD, and the distance between them should be sufficient that the M can swing his arms in a swooshing motion without touching ptr.

M: While turning 1/4 to R, step fwd on R with stamp (ct 1); shift wt on to that ft (cts 2,3) while swinging and extending L leg out in front of R, bringing L shldr fwd and touching L toe to floor pointed slightly inward; swing arms, with hands in fists as if holding scythe, down in front and up to the R in large swooshing motion. Repeat to the L with opp ft and arm motions.

W: With hands on hips, take step bkwd on L ft (ct 1); leaning slightly fwd sweep the R leg behind with semi-circular motion as body is turned 1/4 to R (this brings L shldr fwd). Repeat with opp ftwk.

Hand positions: When not attached to ptr or otherwise specified, M and W place fists on waist, thumbs back, and elbows slightly fwd.

Styling: Movements are done with grace and smoothness, simulating the movements of wheat and other tall grasses in the wind.

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

Meas	2/4 meter	Pattern
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8 meas INTRODUCTION On meas 8, bend knees and recover.

I. THE ROOSTER (waking up).

- 1-2 Dance 2 Basic steps fwd in LOD, M beginning with L, W with R (leading arms held out straight).
- 3 Cpl turns CCW in place with 1 Basic step (M bkwd, W fwd) maintaining Semi-open Ballroom pos. W's L arm is hooked around M's R arm with the hand firmly against the M's inner upper arm for support.
- 4 Still in Semi-open Ballroom pos, M step on ball of R ft while bringing L leg up bending it 45 degrees at knee, upper leg parallel to floor, toes pointed down (ct 1); bend head back and look up (rooster crowing) (cts 2,3). W: Keep both ft firmly on floor and watch ptr.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

II. SWAYS, WALTZ TURN, OD SIE DO SIE

- 1-2 Dance 2 Kołysany steps in shldr-waist, first to M's L and then to R.
- 3-4 Keeping same hold, make one full turn CW moving in LOD with 2 slow waltz steps (Kolebany steps).
- 5-8 Execute the Od sie do sie sequence (back-to-back, etc.) ending with all dancers in large circle facing ptrs; M are facing LOD with hands on hips.

III. WHEAT HARVESTING

- 1-3 Dance 3 Scythe steps; M start with R ft, W with L.
- 4 Both turn to L (CCW) with 1 Basic step (M starts with L ft, W with R): M swing arms ("Scythe") down to start the turn; W extend arms down and out to side.

- 5 M: Scuff R heel on floor to accent ct 1; swing R leg up in front while lifting onto ball of L ft and arms are extended skyward as if holding the scythe high over head while looking at it (cts 2,3).
W: Facing ptr, raise on to balls of both ft (ct 1); hold while watching ptr (cts 2,3).
- 6-10 W return hands to hips; repeat meas 1-5.

IV SWAYS, INS AND OUTS, TURN ON COIN

- 1-2 In shldr-waist hold, M facing LOD, dance 2 Kołysany steps, first to M's L (twd ctr of circle), and then to R.
- 3-4 Turn individually twd ctr of circle with 3 steps, M step L,R,L, and W R,L,R; hands on hips. Repeat with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-6 In Semi-open ballroom hold, dance 1 Basic step twd the ctr; reverse hand hold and dance 1 Basic step out of the circle with opp ftwk.
- 7-8 Dance Na Talarku figure in place turning CW as much as possible, but usually 1 1/4 turns; end with M's back to ctr.

V FORWARD, TURN, STAMPS, AROUND MAN, SWAY AND TRANSITION

- 1-2 Dance 1 Basic step moving in LOD, and then reverse hand holds and dance 1 Basic step backing up in LOD.
- 3-4 Make 1 complete turn away from ptr in LOD, M turning L with 3 steps (L,R,L), W turning R (R,L,R). End facing ptr (M facing out) with hands on hips (meas 3). M step to R on R ft and stamp L ft 2 times, W step to L and stamp R ft twice.
- 5-6 M drop onto L knee, L hand remains on L hip and R hand reaches to take W's L hand. W dance 2 Basic steps while circling the M CCW, R hand on hip.
- 7 Dance 1 Kołysany step to M's L (LOD).
- 8 With 2-hand hold and hands extended somewhat to sides, dance 1 Basic step to L (CW), M starting with R, W with L. At end return to Semi-open ballroom pos facing LOD to begin dance again.

Dance repeats three times more.