

# MATYO

(Hungary)

Matyo is a girl's dance from Borsod County in eastern Hungary. The music and dance were collected from authentic sources by Alice Reisz. Matyo was presented by her at the 1958 College of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp in Stockton, California. It is pronounced "Maht'-yoh" with the TY having the same relationship as in "bet you".

**MUSIC:** Record: Folk Festival FF 3301 – side 1, band 5. Dances of Hungary.

**FORMATION:** Any number of dancers in a circle, hands joined in back basket hold, i.e., grasp hand of second neighbor on either side, joining in back of person next to you. As a general rule, it would be better to have L arm in front of L neighbor's arm and R arm over and behind R neighbor's arm. It might be better to start the teaching with hands joined and progress to back basket hold as dance is learned. This is traditionally a girl's dance but the men may join in for general folk dancing. When used for exhibition purposes, it has been specifically requested by Alice Reisz that no men appear in the dance.

**STEPS:** **Trembling Heel Walk** (2 per meas): Step fwd in LOD on R heel with toes in air, both knees straight (ct 1). Relax knees as wt rolls onto ball of R ft (ct &). Rise onto ball of R ft as L heel strikes ground, toes up, both knees straight (ct 2). At one point wt will be on both ft. Relax knees as wt rolls onto ball of L ft (ct &). Because of the knee action, a slight trembling should result. Because of the rise onto the ball of the ft from the flat ft, an "up" action should be seen.

**Rida (Pivot step)** (1 per meas): Facing ctr, step to L rising on ball of L ft (ct 1). L toe points to L and knees are well turned out. Step on flat of R ft in front of L with R toe pointing to ctr (ct 2). Step should have a definite "up-down" motion. When moving to R, step up on ball of R ft first. In other Hungarian dances this Rida step is used during a cpl turn.

**Heel Touching Step** (1 per meas): Hop on L, extending R ft fwd with heel just touching floor, toes pointed up (ct 1). Small leap onto R, bending L knee sharply so that L ft is brought up in back (ct 2). As heel touches floor that same knee is straightened so the step has a sharpness to it. Step is danced in place.

**Koocker Step** (1 per meas): Hop on R while lifting L ft, knee bent (ct & of preceding meas). Stamp flat of L ft beside R (ct 1). Stamp flat of R ft in place (ct 2). In following meas, step would repeat exactly.

**Cifra** (1 per meas): Leap sdwd R on ball of R ft (ct 1). Step on ball of L near R (ct &). Small leap sdwd R on R, lowering heel and bending knee. Simultaneously lift L lower leg in front of R, turning L knee sharply outward (ct 2). Lift lower L leg as high as time will allow. Step alternates so on next meas begin with leap sdwd onto L. Note: Although the step name is the same, this is not identical with the Cifra step used in other Hungarian dances. However, they all have a common base, i.e., leap (ct 1); step (ct &); step (ct 2).

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

1-3

**INTRODUCTION** Stand in circle in back basket hold. Face LOD (CCW) as much as is allowed by hand hold.

## I. TREMBLING HEEL WALK

- A 1-11 (3 times) Starting with step on R heel, walk in LOD (CCW). Continue to walk through the playing of Melody A up to the last meas (meas 11) of the second repeat. On meas 11 of second repeat, bring R ft next to L and rise on balls of both ft, swinging heels to L, straightening knees (ct 1). Body will turn 1/8 to R. Swing heels back to R to face ctr and place on floor with knees bent (ct 2).

## II. HEEL CLICKS

- B 1 With knees slightly bent, click R to L (ct 1). Click L to R (ct 2).  
2 Rise sharply on balls of ft and swing heels to L as body turns 1/8 to R, knees straight (ct 1). Return to pos, facing ctr, with knees bent (ct 2). This is same heel swing as at end of Fig I.  
3-6 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig II) twice (3 in all).

## III. RIDA WITH STAMPS

- B 7-10 Starting up on L, dance 4 Rida steps moving to L (CW).  
11 Stamp L to side (same distance as taken for preceding steps), ft flat on floor and a little twd ctr (ct 1). L toe points to ctr and L shoulder moves fwd slightly. Hold ct 2.  
12 Stamp R almost in place in same manner as L (no wt) (ct 1). Ft are apart. Hold ct 2.  
13-18 Repeat action of meas 7-12 (fig II) but starting up on R and moving to R (CCW). On last stamp (L) take wt.

## IV. HEEL TOUCHING WITH LOWER LEG SWING

- 19-20 Dance 2 Heel Touching steps, extending R first, then L.  
21 Raising R knee with ft parallel to floor, swing lower R leg to L while hopping on L (ct 1). Swing lower R leg back to R while hopping on L (ct 2).  
22 Repeat action of meas 21 (Fig IV).  
23 With knees slightly bent, click R to L (ct 1). Hold ct 2.  
24 With knees slightly bent, click L to R (ct 1). Hold ct 2.

## V. RIDA WITH KNOCKER STEP

- B 1-4 (repeated) A. Starting up on L, dance 4 Rida steps moving to L (CW).  
5-6 Dance 2 Knocker steps, starting with hop on R.  
7-12 Repeat action of meas 1-6 (Fig V) exactly. Still move to L (CW).  
13-18 B. Dance 6 Heel Touching steps with R heel out first.  
19-24 C. Dance 6 Rida steps starting up on L and moving L (CW).

## VI. CIFRA AND HEEL TOUCHING STEP

- C 1-8 In preparation for step, shift wt quickly onto L. Dance 8 Cifra steps starting with Leap onto R.  
9 With knees slightly bent, click R heel to L (ct 1). Repeat (ct 2).  
10 With knees slightly bent, click L heel to R (ct 1). Hold (ct 2).  
11-20 Repeat action of meas 1-10 (Fig VI).  
C 1-8 (repeated) Dance 8 Heel Touching steps starting with R heel out first.  
9-10 Repeat action (Bokazo) of meas 9-10 (Fig. VI).  
11-20 Repeat action (8 Heel Touching steps and Bokazo) of meas 1-10 rptd (Fig VI). End with wt on R.

## VII. FINALE: TREMBLING HEEL WALK

- A 1-11 Starting with step on L heel, walk 30 steps in RLOD (CW). Face in RLOD as much as arms will allow. On last meas (meas 11 of repeat) swing heels to L and back exactly as done at end of Fig I. Dance ends with all facing ctr, ft together, knees bent.