

RUSSIAN PEASANT DANCE

This dance was arranged by Sergei Temoff, and taught to Chang's International Folk Dancers. The music used is a popular Russian Folk Song, Shining Moon (Victor Record #V-133)

Position: A double circle, partners facing, men with back to center of circle.

Intro. 16 meas.

- I. a. Bend fwd. at hips slightly, clap own hands once on each meas. at the same time stamp R ft. on floor in front. 4 times in all.
b. Skip bwd. 8 skips away from partner. Raise arms to sides.
c. Repeat a.
d. Take 2 polka steps and 3 stamps moving toward partner, and finish with R arms about partner's waist, L arms high.
16 meas.
- II. a. Hop on R, tap L ft. on floor at the same time.
Hop on R, raise L ft. off floor at the same time.
Repeat 8 times in all turning with partner.
b. Repeat all in opposite direction with L arms about partner's waist, R arms high, hop on L and tap R ft.
16 meas.
- III. a. Partners face, arms extended at shoulder height.
Men place L (W--R) heel to side, knees straight
Bend knees slightly keeping backs straight
Straighten knees
Bend knees slightly and lower toe to floor.
Repeat turning back to back on first step when M places R and W places L heel to side as they step fwd. counterclockwise.
Repeat turning face to face with partner.
Repeat turning back to back with partner.
8 meas.
b. M drops to L knee, partners with inside hands joined. W moves fwd. circling around M twice stepping fwd. on the L ft. and drawing the R ft. to it with a half circle movement. W takes 8 of these steps. She holds her skirt with her R hand.
8 meas.
- IV. a. Russian polka (or Varsouvianna) position. Partners facing counterclockwise.
Both start R and take 8 pas de basque steps fwd.
8 meas.
b. Hook R elbows, L arm high, leaning away from partner walk around 8 steps.
Hook L elbows and repeat, walking 8 steps in the other direction.
8 meas.
- V. a. Partners side by side in a double circle, facing counterclockwise, both take a three-step turn to the R, kick L across R and clap on last count.
Repeat turning to the L.
Repeat all of A (stay side by side, finishing each turn facing fwd.)
8 meas.
b. Partners face, M with back to center.
Moving clockwise, together in line of direction, M going to his R takes 12 push steps, finishing with 2 steps and a stamp in place. Man's arms are outstretched sideways on the push steps. On the 2 steps arms are brought fwd. in front and extended sideward on the stamp.
W moves to her L, 4 push steps finishing with a half turn R.
On push step R arm is curved overhead and L across body.
Continue in the same direction with 4 push steps and half turn R. L arm is now high and R across body.
Repeat 4 push steps in same direction with R arm high, L across body, and on the 2 steps and stamp face partner with a half turn R. W's arm movement is similar to M's.
8 meas.

RUSSIAN PEASANT DANCE (CONT.)

- VI. a. Skip bwd. 4 skips away from partner, arms swd.
Take 2 polka steps twd. partner, place R arm about partner's waist.
Turn with partner 4 walking steps, joining L hands above heads. W turns to own R under joined hands with 4 steps, finishing side by side, with M's R arm at her R side, joining her R hand.
8 meas.
- b. W moving bwd., M fwd., do 12 skips. W turns under joined R hands with 4 steps and finishes in a pose facing partner, M's back is to center of circle.
8 meas.
- VII. a. W places R elbow in L palm and chin in R hand, forefinger taps cheek and R toe taps floor on first count of each meas. as she watches partner.
M's prysiadkas: squat on heels with hands held between knees, come to astride position, L toe up and weight on the R ft., R hand curved above the head and L hand extended swd.
Step on L ft. and spin around to the L. Step on R ft.
4 meas.
Repeat prysiadka and turn to the R
4 meas.
In place execute 2 prysiadkas by squatting on heels and coming to astride position with weight on heels, toes pointing up.
4 meas.
Do 6 skips in a small circle moving bwd. clockwise, arms held sideward, hold 7, stamp R 8. Arms are brought in and extended swd. on count 7 and 8.
4 meas.
16 meas. in all.
- VIII. a. M claps hands and stamps R ft. on each meas. as he watches W.
W jumps one-quarter turn to L, tapping R toe on floor in front of L, hops L, raising R knee and turning to the R. R arm high, with handkerchief held in R hand.
Repeat starting R, alternate L and R doing 7 in all and finish with feet together. W holds handkerchief in both hands overhead and twists it while turning in place with 4 polka steps.
W moves past partner with 2 polka steps followed by 2 steps and stamp (R L R).
W join hands in a circle in the center. M places hands on hips and keeps time during this figure by tapping R ft. on the floor, and swaying slightly from side to side. After W passes him, he turns R and M join hands forming an outer circle facing center.
16 meas.
- IX. a. W's circle moves to the R, M's to the L, with 4 Russian polka steps and 7 sliding steps and stamp.
8 meas.
- b. Repeat moving in opposite direction.
Finish with W in front of M and slightly to his R, all facing center, partner's with R hands joined overhead, L hands on hips.
8 meas.
- X. a. Partners move fwd. 3 small walking steps (R L R) and tap L with a slight bend of knees, walk bwd. with same step but with longer strides to enlarge circle. Repeat fwd. and bwd.
8 meas.
- b. W turns under joined R hands with 3 steps and a stamp turning first to R with R L R stamp L, turning L with L R L stamp R.
Repeat to the R. She takes a fourth turn to her L, facing partner, and with back to the center of the circle.
M stands still, but M takes the stamp with W.
8 meas.
- XI. a. Facing partner both stamp R, diagonally fwd. across L (in semi-crouched position) clapping hands. Bring R ft. back to place with a stamp, extending arms swd. Pivot L and step R ft. in place. Repeat same direction.
8 meas.

RUSSIAN PEASANT DANCE (CONT.)

- b. Partners circle as in a dos-a-dos
In passing R shoulders take 4 steps as follows: step R heel, slap R toe on floor, same L, R, L.
In passing L shoulders, move bwd. with the following step: jump, hop on R turning to L, jump, hop on L, turning to R, jump, hop on R turning to L, bring feet together. Arms are extended swd.
8 meas.
- XII. a. M step R, hop R, and swing L fwd. turning to R; step L, hop L, and raise R knee completing turn to R, walk fwd. 3 steps (R, L, R, stamp) progressing counterclockwise.
Repeat all, starting L and moving clockwise in circle.
W execute same step on opposite ft. moving with partner.
8 meas.
- b. M takes 2 prysiadkas without spin (squat and rise to position on heels)
W points R toe to side, heel up, turn with R heel to side, leg straight, kick R leg upward. Hop on L ft. while taking these movements.
Repeat all starting L.
Hook R elbows and turn with partner with 4 quick walking steps.
8 meas.
- XIII. a. All join hands in a single circle W to R of M and run 16 meas.
b. Circle breaks as partners in Hungarian turn position turn with running steps ending in pose for 16 meas.