

STARI ŠOTIŠ

(Slovenia)

Variants of this couple dance (STAH-ree shoh-TEESH), under a number of names are found throughout Slovenia and northwestern Croatia, as well as Slovenian communities in the United States and Canada. North American folk dancers have already been introduced to one variant, *Pok Šotiš* or *Clap and Turn*. Dick Crum notated the version described here from the dancing of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kurnick, in San Francisco, 1958. Mr. Kurnick was, throughout his long, active life, famous as a fine Slovenian dancer, and was also prominent in San Francisco and national Slovene-American activities. Dick Crum presented this dance at the 1974 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

MUSIC: Record: 33-EP-SD 601-1, "Slovenian Old Time Dances", Side 1, Band 1, "Stari Šotiš". (This is a "nostalgia" re-issue of a recording made by the Hojer Trio of Cleveland, Ohio in the 1920s) 2/4 meter.

FORMATION: No formal formation. Ftwk described for M, W does opp except during meas 5-16, Fig 1.

STEPS: Trpljan (TER-pull-yahn) (2 low step-hops per meas) M beg L. There is a decided vertical feeling to the steps and, although they are done without covering much floor space, a good momentum of swing can be developed during the turns. Ptrs face each other squarely, M L hand holds W R hand at his waist, halfway between hip and small of back. M R hand at ctr of W back, her L hand on M R shldr (as in closed pos).

Slovenian Polka: Step L (ct 1); close R to L (ct &); step L with a dip (bend knees) (ct 2); hold (ct &). May be done in any direction. Note that there is no "hop" in the step. May be done in closed pos or in the pos described above for "trpljan".

STYLE: Steps are small and controlled, not much floor space is needed, but the dance moves quickly, is sprightly and playful.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

No introductory music on record. For comfortable dancing begin with meas 2 (stamps).

I. TURNS, CLAPS, CHANGE PLACES

Ptrs facing each other, hands not joined.

- A 1 With 2 step-hops ptrs make one full turn away from each other; M beg L and turn L.
2 Stamp in place L,R,L (cts 1,&,2).
3. Clap own hands in back (ct 1); clap own hands in front (ct 2).
Note: As a variation 4 claps may be done; i.e., back-front-back-front (cts 1,&,2,&)
4 Clap ptrs hands (R claps L) 3 times (cts 1,&,2).
5 Ptrs exchange places with 2 step-hops (same ftwk for both), R, L. Pass L shldrs and make 1/2 turn R (CW) into ptr pos.
6 Stamp in place R,L,R (cts 1,&,2).
7-8 Repeat action of meas 3-4 (claps).
9-12 Repeat action of meas 5-8, returning to orig pos.
13-16 Repeat action of meas 5-8, again changing places.

Note: As a variation, master of ceremonies may call out "change partners" during meas 13-16 occasionally. Best to have orig ptrs together for final sequence if a change is called.

II. TRPLJAN OR POLKA

- B 1-16 32 Trpljan steps or 16 Slovenian Polka steps.

Dance repeats 4 more times.