

Zoriuszka

(Slovakia)

Zoriuszka (Zoh-ree-USH-kah) was introduced by Andy Taylor at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in the summer of 2025. It is a quiet women's dance that Johann Prutyňjak learned from watching his grandmother dance it at special occasions in the Lemko and Prešov Rusyn regions in the borderlands between what is now Ukraine, Poland, and Slovakia (green dot map). Johann was born in the Hutzal region of Slovakia in the 1800s and learned these dances as a young man and passed them down through his family. Andy Taylor learned this dance from Johann Prutyňjak's grandson, Mike Protenic, who arranged the steps to fit this music.

This dance is done to an old Slavic song which dates back to medieval times and is similar to some choral songs from this region. It includes elements of Slovak and Ukrainian song style, where reverb from other mountains comes back. There are many versions of the song available on the internet, but this dance fits a specific version.



Music: 4/4 meter *Triglav* from Szczecin in Poland (igor.gorewicz@gmail.com) or contact Andy Taylor at ataydance@gmail.com.

Video: A video was made at Stockton Folk Dance Camp and will be available in the fall of 2025. Contact someone who attended the Camp who is willing to share the video.

Formation: Circle, facing center. In Fig I, there is special back basket hold in which L arm in under R, and NOT holding hands in back. Hands are on each neighbor's back.

Steps & Styling: Up Rida: Facing ctr, step on ball of R to R (ct 1); step L on full foot in front of R (ct &); repeat. Can be done with opp ftwk and direction. The rise and fall are subtle.

Ball-Flat Rotation: Step on ball of R behind L (ct 1); step L with a flat foot in front of R, making a quarter rotation CW (ct &); repeat three times. The R ft remains on the same spot during the rotation. This is the same footwork as the Up Rida, but rotating around the ball of the ft. Can be done with opp ftwk and direction.

Heel-Roll: Step fwd R on heel (ct 1); roll fwd onto the full foot (ct &); heavy step L fwd. Can be done with opp ftwk.

Meas	4/4 meter	PATTERN
4 meas.	INTRODUCTION. During male vocal and first phrase, slight sway R and L in place.	
I.	SPECIAL BACK BASKET HOLD (see description above).	
1	Step R to R (ct 1); step L beside R (ct 2); repeat cts 1 and 2 (cts 3-4).	
2	Moving sideways R, step R bkwd (ct 1); step L fwd and slightly crossed in front of R (ct 2); repeat cts 1-2 (cts 3-4).	
3	Four Up Ridas to R (cts 1, &, 2, &, 3, &, 4, &).	
4	Step R to R (ct 1); touch L beside R (ct 2); step L to L (ct 3); step R next to L (ct 4).	

- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.
9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.
- II. BACKING UP TO V-POSITION, THEN CCW AND CW.
- 1 Step R bkwd (ct 1); step L beside R (ct 2); repeats cts 1-2, arms lowering to V-pos (cts 3-4).
2-3 Repeat Fig I, meas 2-3 (in-and-out, Rida steps).
4 Facing CCW, step R fwd (ct 1); touch L beside R (ct 2); step fwd L (ct 3); touch R beside L (ct 4).
5 Two R Heel-Rolls moving fwd.
6 Facing R, four steps fwd with slight sways in and out (cts 1-4).
7 Repeat meas 3 (Up Rida steps).
8 Facing ctr, step R to R (ct 1); touch L next to R (ct 2); step L facing L (ct 3); step R beside L (ct 4).
9-11 Repeat meas 5-7 with opp ftwk and direction (L-Heel-Rolls, walking, Up Ridas).
12 Step L fwd (ct 1); touch R next to L (ct 2); repeat cts 1-2 with opp ftwk in the same direction.
13-15 Repeat meas 9-11 (L Heel-Rolls, walking, Up Ridas).
16 Step L facing ctr (ct 1); touch R beside L (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); step L beside R (ct 4).
- III. IN AND OUT WITH BALL-FLAT ROTATION. Hands in fists on hips.
- 1 Two R Heel-Rolls moving twd ctr.
2 Beg R, four steps, swaying slightly R and L, while backing out from ctr (cts 1-4).
3 4 Ball-Flat Rotation steps beg R to end facing ctr.
4 Facing ctr, step R to R (ct 1); touch L beside R (ct 2); step L to L (ct 3); step R next to L.
5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk (L Heel-Rolls, backing up, Ball-Flat Rotation).

Sequence: The dance is done once as described above.



Zoriuszka, showing the special back basket hold in Fig I.