

Sobótki

(Poland)

Sobótki (soh-BOOT-kee) is derived from the Polish word "Sobota," meaning Saturday. This non-partner dance is done to a "chodzony" (walking) melody, the precursor to the Polonaise.

On the eve of June 23rd, the shortest night of the year, the Poles celebrate St. John's Eve, or, as it was known in pagan times, "Sobótki." Many celebrations included music and dancing, fireworks, boat parades and the lighting of bonfires. In some regions women celebrated the shortest night separately from men. Women threw herbs into the bonfire, hoping it would protect them from evil. Single women made wreaths from herbs and floated them down the river hoping that their future husband would find it and fall in love with them. It was called the "Throwing of Wreaths" (Rzucanie Wianków). Men jumped through the bonfire to test their strength and courage. Even today, traditional candle-lit wreaths are floated on the Vistula in Kraków during the St. John the Baptist feast, along with fireworks and bonfires to commemorate the holiday.

This was presented by Richard Schmidt at 2012 Stockton Folk Dance Camp, at University of the Pacific.

Music: 3/4 meter CD: *Folkdances of Poland by Richard Schmidt, Stockton 2012, Track 11*
DVD: *2012 Stockton Folk Dance Camp, DVD*. Stockton Folk Dance Camp video's can be viewed in the library at UOP, or by contacting a camp participant who purchased it.

Formation: Dancers in one circle, individually, facing center

Steps & Styling: Walking Step: Extend R fwd, knee slightly bent until it becomes straight, moving ft fwd with toes just above floor level (ct & before ct 1); step R fwd on ball of ft, straightening L (ct 1); step L fwd on ball of ft (ct 2); step R fwd on ball of ft (ct 3). Repeat with opp ftwk.
Note: This step can beg with either R or L, and can be done fwd, bkwd and sideways. Ct 1 is the longest step in relation to the next two steps.

Walking Step and Cross Step: Using the basic movement of the Walking Step, step on L behind R (ct 1); straighten both knees so R leg is fully extended with pointed toes in front of L (ct 2); hold (ct 3).

Floating Step: On tiptoes, six small steps per 3-ct measure, keeping the movement fluid and flowing as if carrying a full glass of water on the head. Step can be done beg with L or R.

<u>Meas</u>	<u>3/4 meter</u>	<u>PATTERN</u>
4 meas	INTRODUCTION	
1-2	Face ctr, arms extended to sides parallel to the floor, W holding skirt out.	
3-4	Two Walking Steps, R, L, R; L, R, L, making a small individual (CCW) circle, ending in beg pos.	

I. **FIGURE I**

- 1 .. Make a full turn R (CW) with three steps, R, L, R, moving along the circle in LOD.
2 Facing ctr, bring ft together with a deep knee bend.
3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.
5-6 Facing ctr, one Walking Step moving R (CCW), followed by one Cross Step.
7-8 Repeat meas 5-6.
9-12 Facing L, four Walking Steps moving fwd (CW), starting with R.
13-14 Repeat meas 5-6 (Walking Step followed by Cross Step).
15-16 Repeat Introduction, meas 3-4 (small individual CCW circle).

II. **FIGURE II** Close circle by joining hands during meas 1.

- 1-7 Facing ctr, seven Walking Steps moving R (CCW), raise arms up during meas 5 and start down on meas 6 until parallel to the floor on meas 7.
8 Walk fwd L, R (cts 1, 2); turn body to L and step L behind R (ct 3).
9-10 Without dropping hands, face L (CW). Two Floating Steps fwd while bringing arms down to V-pos and making circle smaller by moving twd ctr.
11-12 Continue moving CW with Floating Steps and keep hand joined. Raise both arms over head on meas 11. On meas 12 put R hand on your L shldr and L hand on L shldr of dancer ahead (necklace of arms).
13-14 Without changing hand pos, continue moving CW with Floating Steps.
15 One Floating Step in place, raise arms up and over, make a quarter-turn R to face ctr.
16 One Floating Step bkwd then release hand hold.

Sequence: Fig. I, Fig. II, Fig I, Fig. II, Fig. I, End with Fig. I meas 1-2 (hold "deep knee bend")

Lyrics

Wianku, wianku ruciany
Na sobótka zwijany
Zwijałam cię ranna rosą
Niech cie fale darmo niosa
Wianku ruciany

Płynie rzeka, Hej płynie
Po łowickiej dolinie
Rzuć wianek ten daleko
Niech popłynie razem z rzeką
Wianek ruciany

Wodo, wodo daleka
Nie zaganiaj wianeczka
Niech go złapie chłopak luby
Niech się spełnia wieczne śluby
Wianku ruciany