



Shih Wu

(Taiwan)

The steps come from the “Wu Shih” (Dancing Lion) on the Taiwanese New Year or other important festival days. Lion Dance competitions are held in elementary schools every year. Teachers can arrange the order of the steps and the formation to suit the number of dancers. This dance was choreographed by Ching-Shan Chang. Fang-Chich Chen added more steps and movements for the 2010 Stockton Camp.

Translation: Lion Dance

Pronunciation: SZUH OO

Music: 2/4 meter *Folk Dances from Taiwan—Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2010*, Band 6

Formation: Individual dancers facing fwd, feet apart and knees slightly bent. Both hands are held at shldr level in front, elbows bent, palms facing front, fingers separated (lion pose).

Note: The first and last dancers join in Part II meas 18.

Steps & Styling: The feet and hands must be strong when dancing.

Meas 2/4 meter

Pattern

INTRODUCTION

Three notes of the suona (Chinese oboe). No action.

INTERLUDE

- 1-4 Lift R, making a half CCW arc (cts 1-2); step R fwd (cts 3-4); lift L, making a half CW arc (cts 5-6); step L fwd (cts 7-8).
- 5 Step R bkwd, R hand pulling bkwd. Palm stays in front of body (cts 1-2).
- 6 Repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk and hand movements.
- 7-10 Step R bkwd, both hands in front, making one CCW circle (cts 1-2); raise L in front, both hands at diag rear on the R (cts 3-4); step L fwd, both hands in front, making a CW circle (cts 5-6); raise R leg in front of L bending knee at 45° angle, both hands at diag rear on the L (cts 7-8).
- 11 Jump on both feet, bending knees, and shake both hands (cts 1-2).
- I.
- 1-4 Starting on R, take four steps fwd. When stepping R fwd, R palm pushes fwd, when stepping L fwd, L palm pushes fwd (cts 1-8). Yell “Hey” when each step is taken.
- 5-8 Starting on R, take four steps bkwd. When stepping R, R hand pulls bkwd. When stepping L, L hand pulls bkwd (cts 1-8). Yell “Hey” when each step is taken.
- 9-12 Repeat meas 1-4.
- 13-14 Hop on R four times in place, bending knees, lift L beside R (cts 1-4)
- 15-16 Repeat meas 13-14 with opp ftwk and direction.

- 17-18 Take 4 small running steps, turning once to R (CW) (cts 1-4). All dancers now form just two lines facing fwd. The row in front is “Row A” (head of lion) and the row in the back is “Row B” (tail of lion).
- 19 Jump on both feet (cts 1-2). Row B dancers put both hands on shldrs of the Row A dancers (cts 3-4). All are facing fwd.
- II. TWO ROWS OF DANCERS
- 1-2 Starting on R, take two heavy steps fwd. When stepping on R, head of lion pushes R palm fwd; when stepping on L, head of lion pushes L palm fwd (cts 1-4).
- 3-4 Starting on R, take four small running steps fwd (cts 1,&2,&); jump on both feet and straighten both elbows, head of lion flutters both hands overhead (cts 3-4).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 in opp direction.
- 9-24 Repeat Fig I meas 1-8 but each pair moves together.
- 25-28 Each pair of dancers makes one CW turn with small running step, Row B dancers drop hands and Row A dancers make a half CW turn. Now A dancers are facing B dancers (cts 1-7). All jump away from the group, and end facing a ptr in lion pose (ct 8).
- III. FACING PARTNER
- 1-10 Repeat Fig I meas 1-8 (cts 1-16); bend knees, hands at chest height with fingers pointing up (cts 17-18); straighten knees and elbow, hold hands high and flutter hands (cts 19-20).
- 11-12 Repeat cts 17-20. A and B dancers continue to face each other.
- 13-16 Starting on R, with both hands on L side, take three steps to R (cts 1-3). Turn to L, bringing both hands sharply to R side (ct 4). Look at ptr and, with both hands in front, make one CCW circle (cts 5-6). Lift L diag in front of R, both hands at diag rear on the R (cts 7-8).
- 17-20 Repeat meas 13-16 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 21-22 In lion pose, hop on R four times, bending knees, lifting L beside R in place (cts 1-4).
- 23-24 Repeat meas 21-22 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 25-28 Starting on R, take six small running steps making a full CW turn (cts 1-6); jump onto both feet, shake both hands in front, and return to orig pos of Fig I of the dance (cts 7-8).
- ENDING
- Raise hands above head height and flutter hands

Sequence:

Interlude, Fig I, Fig II, Fig III

Interlude (meas 1-10 only, no jump); Fig I, Fig II, Fig III

Presented by Fang-Chich Chen