

Tsae Shi Gua (採西瓜)

(Taiwan)

The music of the dance is a folk song from Hsiluo in the south of Taiwan. The song relates the mood of a woman who is picking watermelons by the creek and looking forward to someday meeting a man with whom she might fall in love and make a good marriage. This dance was choreographed by Ching-San Chang and Fang-Chich Chen in 1980.

Translation: Picking Watermelons

Pronunciation: TSAHY SHEE GWAH

Music: 4/4 meter *Folk Dances from Taiwan—Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2010, Band 3*

Formation: Single circle with W in front of M, all facing CCW. W place left fist at the left side of the waist with R hand over it. M's hands are on each side, on the waist, fingers fwd.

Steps & Styling: Step-Swing: Step onto R (ct 1); swing L leg across in front of R (ct 2). Can be done with opp ftwk and in any direction.

Rocking Step: Shift wt fwd onto R (ct 1); shift wt back onto L (ct 2). Can be done with opp ftwk and opp direction.

Cut Step: Step fwd L and at the same time lift R ft in front. Can be done with opp ftwk.

Two-Step: Step fwd R (ct 1); step L next to R (ct &); step fwd R (ct 2). Can be done with opp ftwk.

Meas 4/4 meter

Pattern

8 meas INTRODUCTION No action. Begin the dance with the lyrics of the song.

I. SINGLE CIRCLE TO DOUBLE CIRCLE

1 Starting on ML and WR, moving CCW, two steps (cts 1, 2); step, close, step (cts 3,&,4).

2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk

3 W: Step R to R (ct 1); step L next to R (ct &); step R to R, straightening L knee and bending R knee, place L heel to L (without wt), look at ptr over L shldr (ct 2); repeat cts 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction (cts 3-4).

M: Step L to L (ct 1); step R next to L (ct &); bending L knee, take wt on L, straightening R knee and looking at ptr (ct 2); repeat ct 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction (cts 3-4).

Note: Steps can be synchopated (&, 1, 2) with this recording.

4-6 Repeat meas 1-3.

- 7 Starting with ML and WR, take three steps to make a 3/4 turn (M to L, W to R) so M move to form an inside circle and W move to form an outside circle (cts 1-3); touch free heel (M's R heel; W's L heel) and look ptr (ct 4).
- 8 W: Step L (ct 1); both hands open to the side, touch R heel (ct 2); step R and put both hands at the waist (ct 3); touch L heel (ct 4).
M: Step R (ct 1); both hands open to the side, touch L heel (ct 2); step L and put both hands at the waist (ct 3); touch R heel (ct 4).
- 9-10 Starting with M's R and W's L, passing L shldr, repeat meas 7-8, exchanging places (W turn CCW; M turn CW).
- 11 Starting with M's L and W's R, take three steps fwd (ct 1-3); brush ball of M's R and W's L fwd, looking at ptr (ct 4).
- 12 Repeat meas 11, making a half-turn CW, back to the orig double circle (M in an inside circle and W in an outside circle); ptrs face each other at the end, with M's back to ctr.

II.

- 1-2 Starting with M's L and W's R, take two Two-Steps fwd passing L shldrs with ptrs and exchanging places. M turns to L and W turns to R to end facing ptr (cts 1-4); starting with M's L and W's R, take two Step-Swings to move bkwd (cts 5-8); M now face ctr and W face M.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 returning to the pos at the beg of Fig II, facing ptrs in a double circle (cts 1-8).
- 5-6 W: Facing LOD, starting with R, take two Two-steps fwd (cts 1-4); bend and straighten both knees twice, twisting to look at ptr over L shldr (cts 5-8).
M: Facing RLOD, starting with L, take two Two-steps fwd (cts 1-4); turn to ptr, bending knees, clap both hands (ct 5); straightening knees, open both hands twd ptr (ct 6); repeat cts 5-6 (cts 7-8).
- 7-8 Repeat meas 5-6 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 9 Starting on M's L and W's R, take three steps, M making a L turn and W making a R turn (move in LOD) (cts 1-3); touch heel (M's R, W's L) to RLOD, M holding R hand low and L hand high and W holding L hand low and R hand high, with palms up and looking at ptrs (ct 4).
- 10 Bringing both hands across in front, then above head and finally opening facing ptr (M holding L hand low and W holding R hand low) repeat meas 9 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 11-12 Facing ptrs, starting on M's L and W's R, take four Rocking steps in place, shifting body wt but not moving hips (cts 1-4); starting on M's L and W's R, take two Steps-swings bkwd (cts 5-8).

Tsae Shi Gua — continued

INTERLUDE

- 1-2 With R shldr adjacent but not touching, and hands on hip(s), repeat Fig I meas 1-2 making a CW turn (cts 1-8).
- 3-4 With R shldr adjacent, starting on M's L and W's R take four Cut steps bkwd, making a CCW turn (cts 1-8).
- 5-8 Change to L shldr adjacent and repeat meas 1-4 with the same steps in the opp direction. End in a single circle.

ENDING

- 1-2 Repeat ftwk of Fig I, meas 1-2 making a small circle solo turn, W turning CW and M turning CCW. End with a bow to ptr: M step L, close R beside L and bow saying "Gong Xi"; W step L, cross R behind and bow with hands at L hip.

Sequence:

Introduction

Fig I, Fig II, Interlude

Fig I, Fig II

Fig I, Fig II, Ending

Presented by Fang-Chich Chen