SLEIGH-RIDE
(Netherlands)

This Dutch singing game is known in the Netherlands as De arreslee.

Dutch pronunciation:

Music: Nevafoon LP 15024. 4/4 meter. Side 1, band 8. Four meas of introduction.

Formation: Sleighs of two children, one in front, one behind, holding two hands, or four children; one cpl in front and one cpl behind. Both cpls hold inside hands with ptr and outside hands with the other cpl.

Action

The music has two phrases. A-music is "horse music" and is meant for "driving" in running steps lifting knees or heels, or alternating (16 in front, 16 behind, or 8/8/8/8 and so on).

The B-music can be used either to improvise "playing in the snow," or to do a "gliding around" movement, with a shuffle step making a circle of two or four, or holding R or L hand with ptr or four hands across (to get the gliding movement always mind to lean outward).

The children can make their own choice of figures or there can be a set sequence, for example:

A1 Sleighs fwd, lifting knees.
B1 R hand to ptr -- 16 gliding steps around -- back with L hand.
A2 Sleighs fwd lifting knees for 16 steps, then heels 16 steps.
B2 Two cpls, four hands around, 16 shuffle steps and back.
A3 Like A2, changing every eight steps.
B3 Two cpls R hand across 16 shuffle steps, and L hand across 16 shuffle steps.
A4 Like A2, changing every four steps.

Words of song:

A Jingle, jingle, jingle, here we go
For a sleigh ride in the snow
Oh, boy, how I like to ride
With my sweetheart by my side!

B. Never was the snow so white,
Never was the moon so bright.
I could ride all through the night,
With my Sweetheart by my side!

Presented by Femke van Doorn