

CIARDAŚ SPISKI
(Poland)

Ciardaś spiski - or Czardasz from Spisz (speesh) - is a couple dance in 2/4 time of the Spisz mountaineers. Spisz, part of which is in Czechoslovakia, is a very interesting area: a mixture of agrarian cultures of the Polish, Hungarian, and German settlers and of the shepherd cultures of the Wallachian nomads, who in the XIV and XV centuries wandered through the eastern and southern Carpathian Mountains. These four influences have created a unique folk culture. Hence in Polish Spisz we find dances called Madziar, Ciardaś, and Taniec Braucki (from the German Brauttang). The dance was collected by Jaś Dziewanowski in the summer of 1980, in Łapsze Wyżne (WAHP-sheh VISH-neh).

Pronunciation: CHYAHR-dahsh SPEES-kee

Record: JA-222 "Tańce Ludowe z Polski - Volume 3" Folk Dances from Poland, Side A/1, available from Ada Dziewanowska. 2/4 meter.

Formation: Cpls anywhere on the floor in shldr/waist pos.

Steps and Styling: In this description the Hungarian names of similar steps will be used. The styling of the Spisz czardasz is more relaxed than the Hungarian one.

Meas

Pattern

PART ONE. SLOW MUSIC

INTRODUCTION. (first 2 meas of Melody A)

1-2 No action.

I. DOUBLE CZARDASZ (remaining 10 meas of Melody A)

On the upbeat of each ct, slightly flex both knees.

3 Beginning M R, W L, step to side (ct 1); close (ct 2).

4 Step to M R, W L (ct 1); M: touch in back with ball of L ft near R heel. W: close R ft to L, no wt (ct 2).

Note: M may slightly rotate ptr's hips, CCW on ct 1, and CW on ct 2 of each meas. W does not rotate hips herself.

5-6 Repeat meas 3-4 with opp ftwk and direction.

7-10 Repeat meas 3-6.

11-12 Repeat meas 3-4, except M: close L ft with wt instead of touch.

II. DOWNBEAT RIDA (first 18 meas of Melody B)

Remaining in shldr/waist pos, each move a little to own L so R hips are opp, and M place L hand on W R upper arm.

1 Doing a CW turn, step on R ft, bending knees a little (ct 1); continuing the CW turn, step on ball of L ft (ct 2).

2-4 Repeat meas 1 three more times (four Ridas in all).

5 Repeat ct 1, meas 1 (ct 1); hold and change to L side-to-L-side pos, M reversing hand pos (ct 2).

6 Dance a weightless stamp L (ct 1); hold (ct 2).

7-12 Repeat meas 1-6 with opp ftwk and direction.

13-18 Repeat meas 1-6 except M's stamp is weighted.

CIARDAS' SPISKI (Continued)

- III. LEAP-SWINGS (the remaining 6 meas of Melody B)
- 19 Release ptr, face each other, join R hands, while doing a small leap to side (M R, W L) and swinging free leg across in front, M: raise your L hand overhead, palm fwd and move it to R in a large waving motion. W: place free hand on own hip, fingers fwd, thumb back (ct 1); hop (ct 2).
- 20 Repeat meas 19 with opp ftwk and direction, keeping R hands joined.
- 21-22 Repeat meas 19-20.
- 23 Repeat meas 19 (five Step-Swings in all).
- 24 Do a stamp (M L weighted, W R weightless). M: place L hand on own hip, fingers fwd, thumb back (ct 1); hold (ct 2). R hands remain joined.

CHORUS: FAST MUSIC

- IV. LEAP-KICKS (Melody C, 12 meas)
- Leaning away and facing 45° away from ptr, with straight joined arms, cpl will now turn around each other, first CW, then CCW.
- 1 Leap fwd R ft (ct 1); hop R ft, while kicking L ft fwd, knee straight, ft flexed (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk but same direction.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.
- 5 Repeat meas 1 (five Step-Kicks in all).
- 6 While dancing a weightless stamp (L), reverse pos (ct 1); hold (ct 2).
- 7-12 Repeat meas 1-6 with opp ftwk and direction, except dance the last stamp with wt, and move into R-side-to-R-side shldr/waist pos, M L hand on W R upper arm.

- V. FAST TURN (Melody D, 24 meas)
- 1 Doing CW turn, jump fwd, landing on both ft, L ft slightly apart and fwd from R ft, M: with L ft step only on heel (ct 1); continuing turn, step fwd on R ft (ct 2).
- 2-5 Repeat meas 1 four more times (five times in all).
- 6 With a weighted stamp (L), reverse pos (ct 1); hold (ct 2).
- 7-12 Repeat meas 1-6 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 13-24 Repeat meas 1-12.

PART TWO: SLOW MUSIC

- INTERLUDE (first 2 meas of Melody A)
- 1-2 Acquire shldr/waist pos.

CIARDAŚ SPISKI (Continued)

- VI. WALK FWD AND BKWD (remaining 10 meas of Melody A)
- 3 Beginning M R ft fwd, W L ft bkwd, walk with two liltng steps (cts 1,2).
- 4 Continuing movement, walk one more liltng step (ct 1); continuing liltng movement, M: slightly raise L ft in place, W: hold (ct 2).
- 5-6 Repeat meas 3-4 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 7-10 Repeat meas 3-6.
- 11-12 Repeat meas 3-4, except on last ct M: step on L ft instead of raising it.

REPEAT FIGURES II AND III (PART ONE) AND CHORUS.

REPEAT THE ENTIRE DANCE ONCE MORE.

Dance introduced in June 1982 at a workshop for the Houston (Texas) Festival Folk Dancers, by Jaś and Ada Dziewanowski. Please do not reproduce these directions without the Dziewanowskis' permission.

Presented by Ada Dziewanowska