

OLENDER  
(Poland)

Olender (oh-LEHN-dehr) is a couple dance in 2/4 time from the region of Kurpie zielone (KOOR-pyeh zyeh-LOH-neh) in northeast Poland. It can also be done as a mixer. The name comes from the word "Holender" -- a Dutch man, as the tune and the dance have been brought from Holland by Dutch workers, who, being experts in this field, came to northeast Poland to assist in the draining of swamps. The dance, in slightly different versions, is done both in Kurpie and the neighboring regions in northern Poland: Warmia (VAHR-myah) and Mazury (mah-ZOO-rih). In Kurpie, there exist several ways of dancing it, depending on the locality and/or age group. The tune is composed of 16 meas but the pattern of the dance takes only 8 meas. Olender is played here by an old, well-known musician, Józef Mróz, who uses a very unusual instrument popular in Kurpie, a pedal accordion (harmonia pedałowa) (hahr-MOH-nyah peh-dah-WOH-vah), into which the player, who sits on a chair, pumps air through a pipe by means of two pedals. Mr. Mróz is accompanied by Józef Sobiech, who plays a fiddle, and Jan Kamiński, who plays a special Kurpie tambourine, called "bębenek" (behm-BEH-nehk) (a small drum).

Music: XM-46755 "Easy Dances from Poland," side B, band 3, available from Ada Dziewanowska.

Formation: Cpls around the circle in open social dance pos, M's back to ctr. Begin each Figure M with L ft, W with R ft; W face ptr (shldrs parallel).

MeasPatternINTRODUCTION.

1-2 No action.

I. IN PLACE.

- 1 Raising outside (M L, W R) arm diag over head, elbow slightly rounded, wrist loose, do a weighted stamp (ct 1); hold and slightly bend elbow of the raised arm (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1 with opp ftwk but with same arm movement.

Variation to Figure I.

Meas 1: In closed social dance pos, with three small accented steps, done on springy knees (cts 1,&,2), dance a 1/8 turn twd ptr (M CW, W CCW).

Meas 2: Repeat action of meas 1 (Var.) with opp ftwk and direction.

Note: This variation may be done without the 1/8 turn.

II. TURN WITH PARTNER.

- 3-4 Assume closed social dance pos and with four steps do one or two full CW cpl turns, moving in LOD.

III. IN PLACE.

- 5-6 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Figure I).

OLENDER (continued)IV. WOMAN MOVES FORWARD.

- 7-8 Resume hold of outside hands, M: lead ptr to turn and to move in LOD, W: with four steps dance one full CW turn under the joined hands and move in LOD to the M in front of you. New ptrs assume open social dance pos.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Figures I-IV).

Repeat the pattern of the dance six more times (eight times in all). Note: Instead of Figure IV, Figure II may be repeated and the dance ceases to be a mixer.

Dance introduced in June 1977, at the Folk Arts Center of New England 2nd Annual Pinewoods Folk Dance Weekend, by Ada and Jaś Dzięwanowski, who learned it in Poland from the local people in Myszyniec and Kadzidło. Do not reproduce these directions without the Dzięwanowskis' permission.