

WOLTOK
(Poland)

Woltok is a dance for one M and two W in 3/8 time from Kaszuby in Pomorze (Pomerania), the Baltic Sea region of Poland. It has been researched in 1930's from old fishermen by Paweł Szeffka. The tune comes from the village of Sobieńczyce and is composed of a slower, twice repeated, 8-meas melody A, and a faster, 24-meas melody B. In Kaszuby dialect, which often differs a lot from literary Polish, the name means "quarrelling waves." It truly is a dance of the sea. The movements of the slower first part represent the peaceful rolling of waves, while the faster second part, which has several variations, represents the rough waters and whirlpools of a stormy sea.

Dance introduced in 1975 at the New England Folk Festival in Natick, Massachusetts, by Ada and Jaś Dziewanowski.

Pronunciation: VOLE-talk

Record: ZM-40591 "Tańce ludowe z Polski" (Folk Dances from Poland), side B, band 3. 3/8 meter

Steps and Styling: Walking step (one per meas), step-hop (one per meas), running step (three per meas), small sdwd step-together-step (one per meas). All Figures begin with L ft. When hands are placed on waist, fingers are fwd, thumb back.

Formation: M stands between two W holding down their inside hands, W's free arm hangs down at side. Trios stand around the room facing ctr or in several circles about the floor, each circle composed of at least four trios.

Meas

Pattern

- INTRODUCTION.
- 1-4 No action.
- FIGURE I. "SEA WAVES." ("Fale morskie" -- FAH-leh MOHR-skye)
- Preparation: bring both arms down and fwd.
- A 1 Swing arms down and bkwd and step fwd with L ft.
 2 Swing arms down and fwd and step fwd with R ft.
 3 Repeat action of meas 1.
 4 Swing arms down, fwd, and up over head, and bring R ft to L ft, rising onto balls of both ft, wt on both ft.
 5 Swing arms down and bkwd, and bending fwd in a large bow step bkwd with R ft, R knee bent, L knee straight.

WOŁTOK (continued)

- 6 Swing arms down and fwd, and straightening body, step back with L ft.
- 7 Swing arms down and bkwd, and step back with R ft.
- 8 Swing arms down and fwd, and bring L ft to R ft, ending with wt on both ft.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8.
Variation: If this Fig. is done in a circle of even number of trios, every other trio dances the above pattern during meas 1-8, while the remaining trios balance eight times in place bkwd (with L ft) and fwd (with R ft), swinging arms bkwd and fwd. During meas 9-16 the action is reversed.

FIGURE II. "SAILORS." ("Figura żeglarska" -- fee-BOO-rah zheh-GLAHR-skah)

- B 1-4 M and R W join R hands, R arms straight, M's L arm extended diag upward, W's L hand on waist. Starting with L ft, with four step-hops turn once CW. At the same time, L W, hands on waist, (starting with L ft), with four sets of small sdwd step-together-step move CCW once around a 2' diameter circle.
- 5-8 M and L W repeat action of meas 1-4, Fig. II, moving also CW, R W repeat action of LW, moving also CCW.
- 9-24 Repeat action of meas 1-8, Fig. II twice more (three times in all).

FIGURE III. "SEA WAVES."

- A 1-16 Repeat action of meas 1-16, Fig. I.

FIGURE IV. "THE COQUETTE FROM SWARZEWO." ("Swarzewska zalotnica" -- svah-RHEHV-skah zah-loht-NEE-tsah)

- B 1-4 Both hands on own waist, (starting with L ft), with four step-hops M and R W move CW once around a 4' diameter circle, as if chasing each other. At the same time, L W, arms hanging free at sides, (starting with L ft), with 12 running steps move CW once around the dancing cpl. and get back to orig pos, at the end of meas 4.
- 5-8 M with L W, and R W alone repeat action of meas 1-4, Fig. IV, again all moving CW.
- 9-24 Repeat action of meas 1-8, Fig. IV, twice more (three times in all).

FIGURE V. "SEA WAVES."

- A 1-16 Repeat action of meas 1-16, Fig. I.

FIGURE VI. "THE STORM." ("Burza" -- BOO-zhah)

- B This figure represents the chaos of a storm on the sea, and the dancers have a choice of several variations, which gives an opportunity, especially for men, to show off.

WOŁTOK (continued)

- W:
 1-24 With hands on own waist, with 24 sets of small sdwd step-together-step turn in place either CW or CCW, or keep changing the direction every four meas.
 or: With 72 running steps chase or be chased by the other W or the M of your trio in any direction, anywhere in the room.

- M:
 1-24 Six times spin in place on the heel or toes of one ft, each time making one or two full CW or CCW turns; use two meas for spinning, and cts 1,2,3, 1 of the next two meas for four stamps in place; alternate the direction of the spin, if you wish.
 or: Jump up 12 times, using odd meas for preparation, and even meas for the jump.
 or: With 72 running steps, chase one of the W in the trio.
 or: Do six cart wheels.
 or: Do a combination of any of the above movements.

All end in orig pos with a bow.

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Presented by Ada Dziewanowska