

KULLDANSEN
(Sweden)

Kulldansen, a couple dance that is a mixer, comes presumably from the province of Dalarna in Sweden. Literal translation: The "Kulla" (Dala girl) Dance. Kulldansen was learned in Sweden by Gordon Tracie in 1951.

Pronunciation: kōōl-dahns-en (ōō as in lōōk)

Record: Viking V 202a. 3/4 meter.

Formation: Any number of cpls in a single circle, W to R of ptr, all facing ctr. Hands joined and held at shldr-level.

Meas

Pattern

A. LARGE RING

Ring hold, alternating M and W (M orig ptr on his R), all facing inward with hands at comfortable shldr height:
1-4, 1-4 Eight slengpolska steps (as described in Fyrmannadans) to the L (ring moving CW).

B. COUPLE TURN AND PARTNER CHANGE

5-10 Without stopping, cpls take closed shldr-waist hold and dance around CW in place with six slengpolska steps, ending so that W is on M L side.

All hands are rejoined in large ring, and dance resumed at A, turning with new ptr at B each time.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

The last line of an old folk ditty from Dalarna goes, "Hej, så dansar vi me' kulla!" (Hey, so we dance with the Dala girl). There are two cognate melodies for the song, one in an old minor mode, the other in major scale. The latter has been used for the dance described here since the Swedish folk dance movement took shape in the early 1920s. Although the rhythmic structure of the two variants -- 8 meas plus 6 measures -- is the same, the step patterns of this dance and that of "Gammal kulldans" (introduced at Stockton in 1980) are entirely different. Unlike the minor tune variation which employs simple running steps, "Kulldansen" is a form of slengpolska (Swedish: "slängpolska," literally, slinging-polska), akin to the common buzz-step, which rotates in place rather than revolving around the floor as in a waltz, for example.

Presented by Gordon E. Tracie