

SARKANTYUS
(Spur Dance)

Due to the fact that Hungary was a "horse-riding" nation, practically every man wore spurs in earlier times. Going to the dance place with spurs, however, became a privilege for only the best dancers in the village. The sound of the spurs controlled and directed the rhythm and tempo of the dance. Although dancing with spurs never developed as a separate dance form, in certain areas, some traditional step patterns and variations definitely indicated a slight tendency toward this. The following dance is based on steps and variations from the village of Erdöhát in Transylvania, where the dance has survived to the present as a free-style men's dance. Often it becomes a competition between dancers.

Source: A. Lanyi, Hungarian dance expert, researcher and folklorist. Andor Czompo arranged the dance to fit the traditional instrumental folk music of Transylvania.

Music: Crossroad #4003 - "Sarkantus." Both the slow and fast melodies are in 2/4 meter.

Style: Relatively light. With spurs, there is no need to click the heels together with much vigor. The heel-clicking steps are characteristic throughout the whole dance.

Formation: Men in a circle or in groups, or in lines facing each other. Feet are closed and parallel, arms free at a side-fwd pos.

THE DANCE

		<u>SLOW MUSIC (Part I)</u>
<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Movement</u>
<u>1-4</u>		
		<u>Introduction</u>
1	1	In preparation, rise to the balls of the ft and suddenly settle down on the heels with a 'jolt,' on the beat. The knees are straight.
	2	Pause.
2	1-2	Repeat Meas. 1.
3	1	Repeat Meas. 1, ct. 1.
	2	Repeat Meas. 1, ct. 1.
4	1	Repeat Meas. 1, ct. 1.
	2	Pause.
5-8		Repeat Meas. 1-4.
9	1-2	Turn both heels out, toes almost touching, with knees slightly bent. (Pigeon-toed pos).
10	1-2	Close heels together and straighten knees.
11	1	Repeat Meas. 9 twice as fast.
	2	Repeat Meas. 10, twice as fast.
12	1-2	Repeat Meas. 11.
13-16		Repeat Meas. 9-12.
17-24		Repeat Meas. 9-16.

PART II

1	1	Lift the R ft slightly into the air in front of the L leg. In the meantime, turn the hips slightly to the R, with a small pivot on the L ft.
	2	Touch the heel of the R ft in front of the L ft.

SARKANTYUS (Cont)

- 2 1 Turn hips back to place, bringing the R ft to the side just above the floor.
2 Close the R ft to the L with a heel-click.
- 3 1 Step on the heel of the R ft to the R.
2 Step on the L ft behind the R.
- 4 1 Step on the R ft to the R.
2 Close the L ft to the R with a heel-click.
- 5-8 Repeat Meas. 1-4 with opp footwork.
- 9 1 Jump on both ft together in place, turning hips and knees slightly to the R and bending the knees.
& With wt on the R ft, do a lift (looks like a hop, but don't leave the floor) on the R ft in place.
2 Step back on the L ft.
- 10 1 Step fwd on the R ft.
2 Close the L ft to the R with a heel-click.
- 11-14 Repeat Meas. 9-10 two more times.
- 15 1 Click the L ft with the R.
& Hit the R thigh with the R hand.
2 Hit the L thigh with the L hand. At the same time, lift the L ft slightly to the side in preparation for a heel-click.
& Close the L ft to the R with a heel-click.
- 16 1 Pause.
& Snap fingers of R hand.
2 Cut fwd on both ft slightly.
NOTE: Sometimes the finger-snap occurs at the same time as the cut, rather than on the & ct.
- 17-24 Repeat Meas. 9-16.

FAST MUSIC (Part I)

- 1 1 Step on the heel of the R ft on a R/fwd diag.
& Step on the L ft behind the R.
2 Step in place on the R ft.
2 Repeat Meas. 1 with opp footwork.
- 3-4 Repeat Meas. 1-2.
- 5 1 Leap back on the R ft on a R/back diag.)
& Step on the L ft beside the R.) Cifra
2 Step on the R ft in place.)
- 6 Repeat Meas. 5 with opp footwork.
- 7 Repeat Meas. 5.
- 8 1 Step back on the L ft.
2 Close the R ft to the L with a heel-click.
- 9-10 Repeat Meas. 1-2 moving sideways, R and L.
- 11 1 Click R heel to the L.
2 Cut on the L ft, shooting R leg, with a straight knee, to a R/fwd diag.
- 12 Repeat Meas. 1.
- 13 Repeat Meas. 1 with opp footwork.
- 14 1 Close the R ft to the L with a heel-click.
2 Step on the L ft beside the R, lifting the R ft slightly to the side.
- 15-16 Repeat Meas. 15-16 of Slow Part II.
- 17-24 Repeat Meas. 9-16.
- 25-26 Repeat Meas. 1-2.

SARKANTYUS (Cont)

Meas.	Ct.	
27	1	Close R ft to the L with a heel-click.
	2	Cut on the L ft, turning almost 1/2 turn and shooting R ft diag fwd.
28-29		Repeat Meas. 1-2.
30	1	Jump on both ft with the R ft crossed in front of the L, knees bent.
	2	Jump on both ft, turning 1/2 turn to the L, both ft apart. (This movement "unwinds" the cross-jump).
31	1	Close ft together with a jump.
	2	Jump and land on both ft apart.
32	1	Close ft together with a jump.
	2	Pause.
33	1	Click the R heel to the L.
	&	Hit R thigh with R hand and lift L ft to the side.
	2	Click the L heel to the R.
	&	Hit the R thigh with the R hand and lift R ft to the side.
34	1	Repeat cts. 1 & of Meas. 33.
	2	Repeat ct. 2 of Meas. 33, hitting the L thigh with the L hand at the same time.
	&	Hit R thigh with R hand and lift R ft to the side.
35	1	Click R heel to the L.
	&	With both arms extended fwd, clap the R hand to the L from up to down (like playing cymbals) and lift the L ft slightly to the side.
	2	Click the L ft to the R.
	&	Now clap the L hand to the R as above, and lift the R ft to the side.
36	1	Close the R ft to the L.
	&	Snap fingers of the R hand.
	2	Cut on both ft slightly fwd.
37-40		Repeat Meas. 33-36.

Repeat Fast Part I, once more

The directions for this dance are meant only as refresher notes for those who have learned the dance from a qualified teacher.

Dance directions prepared by Ann I. Czompo, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois. Abbreviations added to fit U.O.P. syllabus format.

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