

118 Research Committee, Folk Dance Federation of California:
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DER WOLGASTER
(Germany)

This version of the Pomeranian dance was brought to America by Elizabeth Burchenal, whose source was personal participation in the dance when she visited in north Germany. The original description is in "Folk Dances of Germany" by Elizabeth Burchenal, copyright 1938 by G. Schirmer, Inc., and permission has been granted us for its use by the author and copyright owner.

Music: Record: Imperial 1102 "Der Wolgaster". Should be slowed considerably.

Piano: Burchenal, E. "Folk Dances of Germany".

Formation: Regular square formation, head and side cpls are designated. Bodies are erect and heads held high. All hands are joined and held together at shoulder height.

Steps: Walk*, Run*, Skip. Note: Walk is crisp, smooth and precise, not a shuffle.

*Described in "Folk Dances from Near and Far", published by Folk Dance Federation of California, 1095 Market Street, San Francisco, Calif.

Measures
2/4

Pattern

I. CIRCLE LEFT AND RIGHT

A 1-8 All 4 cpls join hands at shoulder height in a ring and walk 16 steps to L, starting L ft. W look at M behind them as they move.
1-8 Circle R with 16 walking steps, W looking at ptr as they move.

CHORUS

A. Side Arches

Cpls 1 & 3 stand in open pos, but with L hands joined in front and to L of M, R hands joined on W R hip. Cpls 2 & 4 retain inside hands joined.

B 1-2 Head cpls (1 & 3) turn CCW in place with 4 steps. Simultaneously M of side cpls (2 & 4) turn ptr CCW to ctr to face him with 4 steps (M on outside), joining both hands to form an arch on 4th step.

Note: This arch is held through meas 8.

3-4 Beg L, head cpls walk 4 steps to arch made by side cpls to their own R.

5-6 With a marked dip (not a leap) on the first step, head cpls walk through arch they are facing to the place where their opposites formerly stood.

7 Head cpls turn to L in place (two steps).

8 M swings W to inside to form two-hand arch with ptr (same as the sides).

Note: All 4 cpls are now forming arches.

B 1-6 (reptd) While head cpls hold arch, side cpls take open pos again and perform the same action completed by head cpls: L turn on 4 steps; walk to arch formed by head cpls with 4 steps; dip and walk through the arch on 4 steps.

7-8 Head cpls continue to hold arch. Side cpls turn L in place 2 steps; drop ptrs R hand on step 3 and swing W into ctr of square (step 4) where W join R hand with opp W. Side cpls are now in a straight line with W in ctr and M at ends of line. Hands are held high to form 3 arches.

B. Center Arches

C 1-4 Side cpls hold line of arches through meas 8. Head cpls take open pos again and make 1 complete turn to L (facing ctr again) taking 4 walking steps in half time.

5-6 Head cpls drop hands; W walk 4 steps (regular time) to the arch farthest to own L. Simultaneously M walk 4 steps to ctr arch.

7-8 W, leading with L shoulder, dips on first step, walks through arch and turns to R moving along line until she joins R hands across ctr with opp W, L hands with ptr.

Simultaneously M, leading with L shoulder and passing back to back with opp M, dips on first step as he goes through ctr arch and continues to opp place with 3 steps and makes a 1/2 turn L on 4th step to join L hands with ptr.

C 1-8 (reptd) Head cpls hold line of arches. Side cpls repeat action of meas 5-8 as done by head cpls, except that they finish standing in open pos facing ctr of set.

C. Cross-over

D 1-2 Side cpls hold open pos in place (meas 1-8) while head cpls take following action. Head W release R hands at ctr. M give W slight push with L hand, and W exchange places on 4 walking steps, passing back to back (R shoulders leading), joining R hands with opp M. W moving CW to outside of opp M, always keeping R shoulder twd him and stopping when her R shoulder also is twd ctr. Note: Avoid leaping on this figure.

3-4 W push M with R hand and M exchange places on 4 walking steps, passing back to back, L shoulders leading, joining L hands with ptr and keep L shoulder twd ptr, turn CCW until L shoulder is twd ctr.

5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4, head M and W returning to own places.

1-8 (reptd) Side cpls repeat action described for head cpls under meas 1-8, while head cpls stand in open pos facing ctr.

II. ELBOW HOOK AND RUN

A 1-8 All cpl hook R elbows with ptrs. M and W have both hands on hips. Run 16 steps CW.

1-8 (reptd) Change to L elbows, run 16 steps CCW.

B, C, D Repeat CHORUS

DER WOLGASTER (cont.)

III. GRAND RIGHT AND LEFT

- A 1-4 Using skipping step, all do a half grand R and L until they meet ptr in opp pos.
- 5-8 All hook R elbows with ptr, L hands on hips, and turn twice around while skipping.
- 1-8
(reptd) Continue grand R and L to home pos. Hook R elbows again and turn twice around while still skipping.

B, C, D Repeat CHORUS

IV. CIRCLE LEFT AND RIGHT

- A 1-8 Repeat action of Fig I.
- 1-8
(reptd)

Presented by: Ruth Ruling