

MALŪNAS (mah-LOO-nahs)
(Lithuania)

Dance for 8 couples.

Translation: The Mill.

Malūnas is a pantomime which begins with the carts as they arrive with the grain which is first sifted then ground into flour by the mill. There are several Lithuanian "mill" dances, ranging in difficulty from easy to complicated (see Dances of Lietuva by V. F. Beliajus). This version is an intermediate type; figures may be omitted, repeated, etc. in any order according to age level and ability of the group dancing.

Record: Folkraft LP-35, Side A, band 2 -- 2:50. 2/4 meter

Steps and Styling: STAR: Designated persons put designated hds in ctr and move fwd around that ctr (revolve CW for R hd star, CCW for L hd star); in Lithuanian dances just shake hands with opp in the star. Also known as a MILL (as in this dance, Malūnas). All movements of the dance are with light Running Steps, two (L,R) per meas, except for Figures I, IV, and VI which are as described.

Meas

Pattern

- ENTRANCE (Optional) -- Cart with horses.
- 1-16 Four groups of four with No. 1 (leading) cpl acting as the "horses" and No. 2 (behind) acting as the "cart." Cpl 1 join inside hds and stretch inside arms straight fwd like a pole between a team of horses, outside hds resting on outside shoulders which hds are held by outside hds of cpl 2; cpl 2 join inside hands, arms downward. Group follows group in this formation, enter, and form a double circle. Finish facing ptr, M back to ctr, both hds joined.
- FIGURE I -- Sieve
- 1-8 Swing joined hds slightly sdwd to M R (ct 1), L (ct 2), etc., 16 swings in all. (This represents sifting the grain in a sieve.)
- FIGURE II - Independent circles
- 1-8 Release hds, turn 1/4 R and run fwd, M CW inside and W CCW outside, passing ptr once then meeting again to finish with orig ptr in orig pos, both hds joined.
- 9-16 Repeat "sieve pattern" of Fig. I meas 1-8.
- FIGURE III -- Cpls shuttle
- 1-2 Cpls 1 move fwd ctr (M move bkwd) while cpls 2 move outward (M move fwd).
- 3-4 Cpls #1 turn slightly to M R and move outward (M move fwd) while cpls #2 turn slightly to M L and move twd ctr (M move bkwd), each passing a new cpl.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4, Fig. III, three more times (4 times in all) and finish in original starting pos. Cpls #1 move CW while cpls #2 move CCW around the circle in this interweaving; cpls pass each other twice and stop the third time.

MALUNAS (continued)

- 17-22 Repeat "sieve pattern" of Fig. I, meas 1-6, 12 swings only.
 23-24 All face CCW and cpls #1 form a L hd Star while cpls #3 move slightly fwd to join on the outside and form a large double star of four "spokes"; M place arms around W waist, W place hds on ptr shoulder.

FIGURE IV - Outer couples move


- 1-8  Ptrs remain together; cpls #1 run in place while cpls #2 with two long strides run fwd to join the next spoke, (cts 1,2), then all stamp three times in place (cts 3,&,4), and ... repeat three times (4 times in all).

FIGURE V -- Consolidated wings

- 1-8 M #2 place L arms around waists of W #1, who place R hds on L shoulders of M #2, and all move fwd.

FIGURE VI -- Men turn back

- 1-8 Release holds. Each W remain facing CCW but each M turn half around to face CW, then all move fwd with two running steps to form a new "spoke" of four people in line (cts 1,2), three stamps in place (cts 3,&,4), and ... repeat three more times (4 times in all) to finish with original ptrs.

FIGURE VII -- Grindstone

- 1-8 Each M turn half around to face CCW. M #1 reform L hd Star in ctr and join their R hds with L hds of M #2 to form arches. W #2 step in front of arch and other W step bkwd, the W face in and join hds to form a circle under the arches. W circle L under the arches as M move fwd over their circle.
 9-16 Reverse: W circle R and M move bkwd over their circle, each returning to original ptr.

FIGURE VIII -- Circle Four

- 1-16 Each original "spoke" or "wing" form a circle and circle L (cts 1-16) then circle R (cts 17-32).

FIGURE IX -- Small stars

- 1-16 Each circle of four form a R hd star (cts 1-16) then L hd star (cts 17-32).

FIGURE X -- Gears

- 1-8+ All the M form one large circle facing ctr, each W place her L hd over the pair of joined hds which includes her ptr R and hold her skirt with her R hd; M circle R as W move fwd, increasing length of stride (not speed), and if wind is created during this run the "windmill" is successful. (NOTE: this Figure may be continued until the end of the music, or merely for 16 cts and then exit with the same "cart with horses" Figure used for the entrance.)

Notes by Ricky Holden.

Presented by Vyts Beliajus