

# KAMARINSKAYA

(Russia)

Kamarinskaya (Ka-MAHR-in-SKY-yah) was arranged by Sergei Temoff and was performed as an exhibition by Changs International Folk Dancers in 1946. It was presented by Madelynne Greene at the 1959 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp in Stockton, California.

**MUSIC:** Record: National 456 "Topsy Gypsy" (45)  
Continental 1296 "Topsy Gypsy" (slow considerably)

**FORMATION:** Ptrs facing in lines about 8 ft apart. Lines should be formed so that when ptrs assume ballroom pos cpls can dance into a circle moving LOD (CCW). Usually 2 lines of cpls (1 line on each side of room), M on inside with backs twd M in opp line, W on outside facing ptr.

Unless otherwise indicated, M fists on hips and W free hand on hip, palm out. W hold handkerchief always in R until Fig VI, when it is tucked into her belt for the rest of the dance.

**STEPS AND STYLING:** Russian polka (no hop)\*, walk\*, hop\*, heel-brush step, push step\*, skip\*, toe-heel-toe-toe-kick-step, Pas de Basque\*

W Knee-Bend: Keep ft on floor, in place. Small bend of R knee fwd, L knee straight (ct 1), small bend of L knee fwd as R knee is straightened (ct 2). During this step W keep R hand above head level (arm rounded) and wave handkerchief with circular motion of wrist as she watches ptr. Action is subtle.

Prysiadka: Assume squatting pos (sit over heels) with knees turned out, back erect. Fists may remain on hips or hands may drop between knees (ct 1). Rise as indicated in description of dance (ct 2). These steps are executed with vigor.

Dancers have erect, proud bearing. Ptrs dance for each other, the W in a feminine manner, the man to show his strength and vigor. Show interest in ptr.

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MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

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Measures

INTRODUCTION

8 meas M stand with fists on hips and keep time with small bend of R knee, straightening knee on ct 1 of each meas as he watches ptr. W turn L shoulder twd M and stand watching him as she does knee-bend.

I. HEEL-BRUSH, KNEE-BEND AND PUSH (W)

M continue keeping time in place during this Fig.

1 W progress twd ptr on this pattern. Face ptr and touch R heel diag fwd R, turning body slightly twd active ft and dipping handkerchief low (ct 1); brush R ft back diag across L, as upsweep of handkerchief begins (ct 2).

2. As body is straightened, move fwd twd ptr with small steps R L R (cts 1 & 2).

- 3-4 Beginning L, repeat action of meas 1-2, again dipping handkerchief with R.
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4.
- 9-12 With L shoulder twd ptr, W dance knee-bend 4 times.
- 13-16 W move away from ptr with 8 push steps to R, R hand high.
- 17-20 Make a quick 1/2 turn L (CCW) and with R shoulder twd ptr, L hand high and R on hip, continue away from ptr with 8 push steps. W should now be in orig place.
- 21-24 W turn to R (CW) in place with 8 push steps, R hand high.
- 25-28 W turn to L (CCW) in place with 7 push steps, L hand high. Finish with pose to ptr, bringing L to hip and extending R hand and R toe twd ptr.

## II. PRYSIADKA, POLKA AND TOE-HEEL (M)

With L shoulder twd M, W dance knee-bend throughout this Fig as she watches ptr.

- 1 M prysiadka rising with wt on L, R toe (on floor) extended twd ptr, R shoulder leading. As toe is extended, matching hand is extended twd ptr (shoulder leading), other hand high.
- 2 Bring hands to hips, polka twd ptr, beginning R.
- 3-4 Prysiadka, extending L ft twd ptr with L shoulder leading and polka twd ptr, beginning L.
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig II) Finish facing ptr.
- 9-10 With fists on hips, M move bkwd away from ptr. With slight hop on L ft touch R toe down diag fwd R, heel up and knee turned in (ct 1); with slight hop on L, place R heel on floor, toe up and knee turned out (ct 2). Repeat, beginning with hop on R.
- 11-16 Repeat action of meas 9-10 (Fig II) three times more, except that on meas 16 close R ft to L (ct 1) and stamp R ft fwd, R arm extended twd ptr, L arm high, to end in pose (ct 2). Finish in orig place.

## III. TOE-TOE-KICK-STEP AND SKIP (W)

During this Fig, M repeat action of Introduction.

- 1 W move fwd twd ptr. With slight hop on L, point R toe down diag fwd twd R, heel up and knee turned in, dipping handkerchief low (ct 1); with slight hop on L, point R toe in same place, heel up and knee turned out (ct 2). There is slight turn of body twd pointing ft.
2. With slight hop on L, kick R fwd diag R, knee straight, bringing handkerchief overhead (ct 1); step fwd R (ct 2).  
NOTE: This is not a high kick.

- 3-4 Beginning with hop on R and pointing L toe, repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig III).
- 5-12 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig III) two more times. Finish with both hands on hips.
- 13-15 Beginning R, move bkwd to orig place with 6 skipping steps, gradually bringing hands to open pos.
- 16 Close R ft to L, no wt (ct 1); pose to ptr as at end of Fig I (ct 2).

#### IV. POLKA, PRYSIADKA AND SKIP (M)

With L shoulder twd M, W dance knee-bend throughout this Fig as she watches ptr.

- 1-2 Beginning R, M move fwd twd ptr with 2 polka steps. Fists on hips.
- 3 Prysiadka, rising with R toe (on floor) twd ptr, R shoulder leading with arm extended twd ptr, L high.
- 4 Prysiadka, rising with L ft pointed twd ptr, L arm extended, R arm high.
- 5-8 Beginning L, repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig IV).
- 9-12 Beginning R, return bkwd to place with 8 skipping steps.
- 13-15 Facing ptr, prysiadka 3 times, rising to stride pos on both heels, toes up.
- 16 Prysiadka, rising with stamp R twd ptr, R arm extended, L high.

#### V. WOMAN CIRCLE PARTNER

During this Fig M repeat action of Introduction.

- 1-8 Beginning R, with 8 polka steps W dance fwd CW around ptr (passing R shoulders) to finish in front of him with L shoulder twd him. R hand is extended from shoulder and handkerchief is gently waved.
- 9-12 W dance knee-bend, flirting with ptr.

#### VI. SKIP AND PRYSIADKA (M)

W continue knee-bend during this Fig.

- 1-3 Beginning R, M move bkwd away from ptr with 6 skipping steps.
- 4 Prysiadka, rising on both heels, arms extended outward.
- 5-8 Moving fwd to place, repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig VI).
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig VI), except that on meas 16 omit the prysiadka and assume ballroom pos with ptr.

VII. CIRCLE POLKA AND WOMAN TURN

- 1-4 In ballroom pos, cpls turning CW dance into a circle moving LOD (CCW) with 4 polka steps.
- 5-8 Retain joined hands (ML-WR). Beginning L, M walk 8 steps fwd LOD, with accent on L (ct 1) of each meas, while W makes 4 turns CW under raised joined hands, stepping R L for each turn.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig VII).

VIII. SLIDING STEP AND WOMAN TURN

- 1-3 In ballroom pos (M with L shoulder leading) continue LOD with 6 sliding steps.
- 4 M walk L R (LOD) while W turns once (CW) under joined raised hands (ML-WR) as she steps R L.
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig VIII).

IX. HALF-SQUAT AND PIVOT

- Ptrs facing, M back to ctr; both with hands on hips.  
Action for both M and W.
- 1 Beginning R, repeat ftwork of Fig III, meas 1-2.
- 3-4 With slight hop on R, touch L toe down, heel up (ct 1); half squat both ft flat on floor (ct 2); rise and pivot R on R (ct 1), stamp L beside R, to stop facing ptr (ct 2).
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig IX)

X. SKIP AWAY AND TOGETHER

- 1-3 Ptrs facing, hands on hips, M back to ctr. Both beginning R, move bkwd from ptr with 6 skipping steps.
- 4 Point R toe fwd twd ptr and, bending body slightly fwd, clap 3 times (cts 1 & 2).
- 5-8 With 5 skipping steps return to ptr and on last 3 cts, in shoulder waist pos, M lift W high (meas 7, ct 2, prepare; meas 8, ct 1, up; ct 2, down GENTLY.)
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig X).

XI. PAS DE BASQUE AND WOMAN TURN

- Assume Varsouvienne pos, W hands head high.
- 1-2 Moving fwd LOD, both Pas de Basque R L.
- 3 Retaining hand hold, M step R L in place as W turns R (CW) under their raised joined hands, stepping R L. Finish with hands crossed in front, L on top.

- 4-5 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig XI).
- 6 Repeat action of meas 3 (Fig XI), with W turning L (CCW) under their raised joined hands.
- 7-12 Repeat action of meas 1-6 (Fig XI).

**XII. BACKWARD SKIP AND CIRCLE POLKA**

Retain Varsouvienne pos, hands high.

- 1-8 Both beginning R, skip bkwd (RLOD) with 16 steps.  
CAUTION: M should glance over his shoulder to keep spacing so that ptrs do not trample cpl behind them.
- 9-16 In ballroom pos, progress LOD, turning CW, with 8 polka steps.
- Chords Retaining joined hands (ML-WR), W turn CW under joined hands and both finish in pose, free hands high.