

Krasnaya devitsa

(Russia)

Krasnaya devitsa, meaning “beautiful girl,” is a traditional dance for two from northern Russia. Folklorist Antonia Kolotilova was an early pioneer doing field work in this region. In the 1920s and 30s, she collected many traditional songs, this being one of them. Hennie Konings introduced it in 1986 to members of the Russian Summer Dance Camp in Switzerland.

Pronunciation: KRAHS-nah-yah DYEh-veet-sah

Cassette: Konings – Stockton 1996 2/4 meter

Formation: Single circle of couples facing center, hands joined in W-pos. When moving in LOD, Ptr 1 leads and Ptr 2 follows.

Steps and Styling: Walking step is used throughout, one step to a ct. Always begin with R ft. Ftwk is same for all.

When free, hands are down at sides. Movements flow smoothly from one part to the next.

Meas Pattern

12 meas INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. WALK IN LOD (CCW)

1-5 Facing diag R of ctr, walk 10 steps in LOD. At end, release hands.

6 Ptr 1: Starting a small 1/2 circle CW, step on R to R and complete the 1/2 circle with a step on L. End outside the original circle with R shldr twd ptr and facing in RLOD.

Ptr 2: Continue walking 2 more steps and end still facing in LOD with R shldr twd ptr.

II. LOOP CW; TURN CW WITH PARTNER

1-3 With 6 steps, pass R shldrs with ptr, move to R passing back to back and move bkwd to place.

4-5 Join with ptr by grasping ptr's arm above the elbow, R hand holding L arm. R hips are about opp each other. Circle CW with 4 steps.

6 With 2 steps, release ptr and reform original circle.

III. WALK IN RLOD (CW)

1-5 Facing diag L of ctr and beg R ft, walk 10 steps in RLOD. At end, release hands. (Ptr 2 is leading and Ptr 1 following.)

Ptr 1: Continue walking 2 more steps and end still facing in RLOD with L shldr twd ptr.

Ptr 2: Starting a small 1/2 circle CCW, step on R across to L and complete the 1/2 circle with a step on L. End outside the original circle with L shldr twd ptr and facing in LOD.

Krasnaya devitsa—continued

IV. LOOP CCW: TURN CCW WITH PARTNER

- 1-3 With 6 steps, pass L shldrs with ptr, move to L passing back to back and move bkwd to place.
4-5 Join with ptr as in Fig II, meas 4-5. L hips are about opp each other. Circle CCW once with 4 steps.
6 With 2 steps, release ptr and reform original circle.

Note: Although the ftwk remains the same (beg R ft), Figs III and IV are mirror images of Figs I and II.

Repeat dance as written until music ends.

Ending: With hands joined as in original circle, all bow from hips twd ctr.

Presented by Hennie Konings

Description by Ruth Ruling and Joyce Lissant Uggla