

Lapty

(Russia) NOT TAUGHT

Lapty is a couple dance from the Voronezh region of south-west Russia. Lapty are shoes that were woven from strips of bark. They were considered to be a symbol of poverty and backwardness. Under the Communists, it was forbidden to show peasants wearing lapty on TV. The dance in its original form was pure improvisation. The several variations are based on the research of Hennie Konings who introduced the dance in western European countries in 1991.

Pronunciation: LAHP-tee

Cassette: Russian Dances - Hennie Konings

2/4 meter

Formation: Couples in a single circle facing ctr, W to R of ptr. W L arm through the crook of M R arm. Outside hands on hips.

Meas

Pattern

16 meas INTRODUCTION. No action, begin with vocal.

FIGURE I

- 1 Step on R to R side, bending knee a little (ct 1); step on ball of L behind R (ct 2).
 2-7 Repeat meas 1 six times.
 8 Step on R to R side (ct 1); brush L ft diag fwd to L (ct 2).
Hands: Meas 1-4: Move outside hands fwd in an arc at about chest level to arrive (palm up) out to side. Meas 5-8: Retrace arc (turning palm down) to return hand to hip.
 9-15 Repeat meas 1-7 with opp ftwk and direction. Begin with L and move to L side.
 16 Step on R (ct 1); stamp L (with wt) near R (ct 2).
Hands: Meas 9-16: Repeat meas 1-8.

FIGURE II

- W move twd ctr; M dance in place.
 1-7 W: Beg R move twd ctr with 7 heel two-steps. (Step on R heel (ct 1); step on L near R heel (ct &); step flat on R with an accent (ct 2). Step alternates.) With elbows bent, palms down, swing arms from side to side, beg R side and alternating each meas.
 8 In place, turn sharply 1/2 CW leaping on L,R,L (cts 1,&,2).
 9-14 Beg R, dance 6 heel two-steps back to place.
 15-16 Facing ptr, dance stamping pattern.
Stamping: Stamp R (no wt)(ct 1); hop on L (ct &); stamp on R (with wt)(ct 2); stamp L (no wt)(ct &); hop on R (ct 1); stamp on L (with wt)(ct &); stamp R (no wt)(ct 2).
 (1) M: In place, balance sdwd R stepping R,L,R (cts 1,&,2) turning a little CCW.
 (2) Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and turning a little CW. Arms swing freely from side to side.
 (3-16) Repeat meas 1-2 seven times.

Lpty—continued

FIGURE III

M move twd ctr; W dance in place.

- 16 meas **M**: Repeat ftwk of W Fig II. M move arms more vigorously than W.
W: Repeat ftwk and arms of M Fig II.

FIGURE IV

Cpl turn CW in place. Join hands with ptr: R with R, L with L; R hands on top.

- 1 Step on R across in front of L, bending knee (ct 1); step on ball of L to L side (ct 2).
 2-8 Repeat meas 1 seven times, making approximately two turns. Try to finish meas 8 with M facing on LOD. At end, release hands and take original starting pos facing ctr. Continue ftwk directly into a repeat of the dance.

Dance sequence: Dance pattern as written 4 times. On the last repeat of Fig IV, dance meas 1-6 as written and finish facing ptr with the stamping pattern Fig II, meas 15,16.

Presented by Hennie Konings

Description by Ruth Ruling and Joyce Lissant Ugglá