

Sibirskaya Matanya

(Russia)

Sibirskaya Matanya is a couple dance from Siberia. Matanya is a girl's name but "matat" also means "to turn or spin." In many regions in the south, dances with turnings are known and are called "Matanya." This Matanya was researched by Tatyana Ustinova and later choreographed by Andrei Klimov. Hennie Konings introduced the dance in Switzerland in 1987.

Pronunciation: see-BEER-skah-yah mah-TAHN-yah

Cassette: Russian Dances Stockton 1994

2/4 meter

Formation: Couples in a circle in open ballroom pos, facing in LOD. ML, WR hands joined at about shldr level and pointed in LOD. Ftwk same for M and W except in Fig II.

Meas

Pattern

8 meas INTRODUCTION No action. Start with vocal.

I. TRAVEL IN LOD (CCW)

1-6 Beg R ft, dance 6 two-steps in LOD (CCW). Steps have a gliding quality, danced mostly on the balls of the ft with very little up-down movement. At end, release MR, WL hands.

7-8 M: With back to ctr, dance 2 two-steps as W turns CW under the joined hands. R arm is out to side about shldr level.

W: With 2 two-steps make one turn CW, going under the joined hands (ML, WR). L hand on hip.

II. MAN STAMPS; WOMAN CIRCLES

1-8 M: With back to ctr and watching W, dance a stamping pattern.

A. With arms out to sides at about shldr level:

meas 1: Step on R (ct 1); hit L heel with wt (ct &); step on R (ct 2); hit L heel with no wt (ct &).

meas 2: Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.

meas 3-8: Repeat meas 1-2 three times but on meas 8, hold last ct &.

B. Another possibility:

meas 1-2: Dance meas 1-2 of Pattern A, omitting the last ct &. Add: Raising R knee, slap thigh with R hand (ct &); slap L thigh with L hand (ct ah).

meas 3: Stamp R ft (ct 1); clap hands twice (cts &,2); raising R knee, slap thigh with R hand (ct &); slap L thigh with L hand (ct ah).

meas 4: Repeat meas 3.

meas 5-8: Repeat meas 1-4.

W: Arms at chest level, R arm bent at elbow so the forearm is in front of the body and parallel to floor, R arm straight out to side. Hands are bent up at wrists, Look over R shldr.

meas 1-8: Beg R, dance a CW circle with 8 two-steps. End facing ptr.

Sibirskaya Matanya—continued

III. ELBOW TURN WITH PARTNER

- 1-7 Hook R elbow with ptr. L arm is out to L side with elbow bent and hand raised. With 7 two-steps circle CW 3 times.
- 8 Releasing elbows and dancing one more two-step, M turn CCW, W CW to face LOD. Resume open ballroom pos to start dance again.

Presented by Hennie Konings

Description by Ruth Ruling and Joyce Lissant Uggla