

# CHASTUSHKY - Russia

A circle dance introduced to North America by Alexandru David who learned it from the Beryozka State Ensemble of Moscow in 1979. 2/4 rhythm.

**Formation:** Circle, dancers facing CCW LOD. Arms initially held slightly forward body, wrists slightly bent

## Figure 1 Travel CCW LOD

- 1 Step R (ct 1), L (ct &), R (ct 2), L (ct &) hands move from side to side with each step
- 2 Travel on right diagonal - Step on R heel (ct 1), step L behind (ct &), step R (ct 2). Hands rise and swoop to right.
- 3-4 Repeat measures 1-2 opposite feet and arms
- 5-12 Repeat measures 1-4 twice more

## Figure 2 Face LOD, travel sideways out and into center Arms out from body, waist height

- 1 Step R to R (ct 1), step L behind (ct 2)
- 2 Start turn CW, step R to right (ct 1) complete 360° turn pivoting on L heels together (ct 2)
- 3 Step R in place (ct 1) touch L toe to side (ct &) no weight. Hop of R and lift L with L knee bent (ct 2) Step L to left (ct &)
- 4-6 Repeat measures 1-3 opposite footwork, travelling into center
- 7-12 Repeat measures 1-6

## Figure 3 Hands at waist, facing center

- 1 Step R forward into center, close L beside R, opening arms  
Step R backwards, close L beside R, hands back on waist
- 2 Small leap onto R while extending L diagonally straight.  
Hop again on R while in mid-air spinning CW 180° to face out of center
- 3-4 Repeat measures 1-2, opposite footwork and end facing center
- 5-8 Repeat measures 1-4

## Figure 4 Travel CCW LOD, hands at waist

- 1 Leap R kicking L heel high behind (ct 1), opening arms out to sides palm up  
Leap L kicking R heel high behind (ct 2), return hands to waist
- 2 Step R, L, R (cts 1, &, 2) scuff L (ct &)
- 3 Step L, R, L (cts 1, &, 2)
- 4-12 Repeat measures 1-3 three times

## Figure 5 In LOD arms swing from side to side

- 1 Walk R, L (cts 1, 2)
- 2 Step R (ct 1) sharply bend R knee while bringing L foot behind R calf (ct &), step L back (ct 2) while leaning forward leaving R heel on floor
- 3 Repeat measure 2
- 4 With hands at waist, step R to R side (ct 1), step L behind R (ct 2)
- 5 Brush R out to right (ct 1), brush R back (ct 2)
- 6 Stamp R, L (cts 1, 2)
- 7-12 Repeat measures 1-6

## Figure 6 In CCW LOD, hands at waist

- 1 Step R (ct 1), scuff L (ct &), Step L (ct 2), scuff R (ct &) - with no weight on the scuffs
- 2-3 Repeat measure 1 twice (in total 6 step-scuffs). On last step-scuff turn to face center
- 4 Hop L (ct 1), stamp R (near L) no weight (ct &), step R to right (ct 2), scuff L to R no weight (ct &)
- 5 Repeat measure 4 opposite footwork
- 6 Hop L (ct 1), stamp R taking weight (ct &), stamp L taking weight (ct 2 &)
- 7 In place step R behind L (ct 1), hop R (ct &). Step L behind R (ct 2), hop L (ct &)
- 8-9 Repeat measure 7 twice - in total 6 step-hops. End with a sharp R stamp no weight instead of the L hop
- 10 Almost done! Hop-double-step is next. Hop on L (ct 1), step R behind L (ct &), step L (ct 2), R (ct &)
- 11 Repeat measure 10 opposite footwork
- 12 L hop (ct 1) and R stamp taking weight (ct &), L stamp taking weight (ct 2 &), open arms palms up

Repeat dance starting with Figure 2.