

LEBEDUSHKA - Russia

The Little Swan. A circle dance introduced by Alexandru David to North America. Learned in 1979 by David from the Beryozka State Ensemble of Moscow. 2/4 rhythm.

Formation: Circle, dancers facing CCW LOD.

Hands initially are held at own waist, fingers forward, thumb back.

Measure:

Introduction: no action measures 1 - 4.

Figure 1 Traveling CCW LOD

- 1 In LOD step forward R (ct 1), step L (ct &), step R (ct 2), and then with a lilt, brush L diagonally to side while sympathetically bending upper body slightly towards brush (ct &) During measure 1 take all counts to elegantly open both arms to sides, palms up, waist height
- 2 Continuing in LOD, repeat measure 1, opposite feet. During measure 2 close arms back to waist
- 3-6 Repeat measures 1-2 two times
- 7 Repeat measure 1 (seven phrases in all)
- 8 Turn to face center step L, R, L in place (cts 1, &, 2), hands back at waist

Figure 2 Facing center, travel sideways right LOD with progressively faster, small down-up steps

- 1 -3 Step R to right with bent knee (ct 1), cross L behind landing on ball of foot (ct &), repeat 5 times for total of 6 down-up steps. During these 6 steps, slowly open arms to sides, palms up, waist height
- 4 End with 3 stamps R L R while bringing hands back to waist
- 5-8 Reverse measures 1-4 travelling sideways L LOD The tempo is swifter and it is necessary during the 6 down-up steps to fall on the left and push strongly with the R foot. Measure ends with the 3 stamps in place facing center, hands on waist

Figure 3 Face center, hands on waist.

- 1-2 Weight on L, slight lift to L heel (upbeat) accented step R in place (ct 1), small step L in place (ct &). Three times total. Step R step behind L. L foot kicks straight-legged diagonally forward.
- 3 Step onto L heel (ct 1), close R (ct &) Slight hop R (ct 2) L foot kicks straight-legged diagonally forward (ct &)
- 4 Step L behind R, step R in place Step L close to R
- 5-16 Repeat measures 1-4 three more times

Figure 4 Travel CCW LOD, hands at waist.

- 1 Step R heel, L, R (cts 1, &, 2), arms opening out
- 2 Step L heel, R, L (cts 1, &, 2) hands returning to waist
- 3-4 leaning forward take 4 running steps R, L, R, L, (cts 1, &, 2, &) while kicking legs high behind
- 5-16 Repeat measures 1-4, three more times

Figure 5 Large theatrical steps sideways with arm movements, starting with hands at waist.

- 1-2 Step R to right, cross L behind, R to right. Lift L leg diagonally, straighten knee and step onto L heel while L arm opens grandly to L side, in sympathy with L leg.
- 3-4 Repeat measures 1-2 opposite footwork and arm
- 5-8 Repeat measures 1-4, closing R with a smart stamp on final count.

Figure 6

- 1-16 Repeat Figure 4

Figure 7 Face center, hands at waist, heels together toes apart ready to begin "Suzie Q" step,

- 1 Move L toe and R heel to R (ct 1) - toes Move L heel and R toe to R (ct 2) - heels
- 2 Repeat measure 1 Fig. 7
- 3 Stylishly lift L diagonally back with knee bent and then step L in front of R
- 4 Lift R diagonally back and close R heel to L heel with a flourish. Toes will be spread apart ready to start "Suzie Q" step
- 5-16 Repeat measures 1-4 another 3 times (four sets in total)

Figure 8 Ending step

- 1 Stamp L heel (ct 1), grandly stamp R no wt (ct 2)
- 2 Step R behind L (ct 1), touch L heel diagonally out (ct 2) extending both arms triumphantly more forward than sideways, waist height, palms up.