

Tuluttooq

A group from Ilulissat, Greenland, visited the Isleik festival on Iceland in July 2004. The group consisted of 5 very energetic young couples, one older couple, and a musician. They were the hit of the festival and I learned Tuluttooq from them. They said the name means "that one comes from England".

For me, the dances they showed represented a successful modernization of older folk dances. Most of the formations and melodies are closely related to other northern European dances. The men ornament the dances, especially when "setting", with a kind of improvised stepping or clogging. The music was played on a keyboard – loudly, with an underlying disco rhythm.

Music: A squarely phrased polka (AABB with 8 or 16 meas per phrase). The dance has its own melody, but I have not used it.

Meter: 2/4 (one change-of-step per measure).

Formation: Couples facing LOD, hold nearer hands (M L and W R) at waist ht. Free hand on hip.

Steps: Change-of-step L: step fwd L (ct 1), step on R toe beside or slightly behind L (ct &), step fwd L (ct 2). Step alternates ft.

Style: The style is very flat, not at all bouncy.

Meas Movement

- 1-7 M start R and W L, dance 7 change-of-steps progressing in LOD. On meas 1, 3, 5, and 7, face slightly away from ptr, moving the joined hands fwd in LOD. On meas 2, 4, and 6, face twd ptr, moving the joined hands bkwd.
- 8 One change-of-step, M L and W R. M turns once CW, holding joined hands at waist (end with R arm across in front of body, W L arm behind M, still holding hands). Lift L arm over R during the turn, then join L hand with W's R in front.
- 9-15 7 change-of-steps fwd in LOD, M start R and W L.
- 16 One change-of-step, M L and W R. Keeping both hands joined with ptr the whole time, M back under W's L and turn 1/2 CW to face RLOD. Now L arms are almost straight, and crossed. Both have R hand in front of own body.
- 17-23 7 change-of-steps fwd around common center. Both dance fwd, the cpl rotates CCW.
- 24 One change-of-step, M L and W R. Keeping both hands joined, M turns W into new pos. They will end side-by-side facing LOD, with M on the outside, i.e. M on W's R. M lifts L arm and turns W 1/2 CW under the joined hands. He ends with L arm over her L shldr, R arm over her R shldr. Her arms are crossed on her chest, R over L.
- 25-31 7 change-of-steps fwd in LOD, M start R and W L.

32 Let go with M L and W R hand. W swings over to M R side, turning once CW, to end in starting pos.

(Note: when the group from Greenland danced, people occasionally changed ft by taking two walking steps in meas 8, 16, 24, or 32 – instead of dancing change-of-step. This is perfectly OK except in meas 1-7, where the man must start with R and the woman with L.)

Presented by Alix Cordray