

ADA'S KUJAWIAK NO. 1  
(Poland)

Kujawiak (koo-yah-vyak) is a Polish cpl dance which originated in the Kujawy region, the agricultural lowland, North-West of Warsaw. It became popular all over Poland, also as a ballroom dance, and belongs, therefore, to the category of the national dances. It is a slow dance in 3/4 time, suggestive of the grain blowing gently in the fields. Its tunes are romantic, lyrical, and slightly sad, often in rubato tempo. Some melodies alternate between a slow tempo and a faster tempo. Kujawiak is done with simplicity and grace in a smooth, flowing style, in an erect posture, with slightly bent knees. The M performs from time to time more elaborate steps than the W. Kujawiak has many steps and figures. Only a few have been chosen for this arrangement.

Record: LP Muza XL 0203 "Pożegnanie Ojczyzny" (Farewell to My Country), side A, Band 3, "Na wierzbowym listku" (On a Willow Leaf), 3/4 time.

Basic step: (One measure). Ct 1: Step on L ft (R ft). Ct 2: Slightly smaller step on the ball of R ft (L ft), Ct 3: Small step on L ft (R ft) near the other ft. Repeat same pattern in the next measure with opp ftwork.

Formation: Cpls around the room, M and W face each other, M back to ctr of circle, their fists on own hips slightly fwd, elbows also fwd.

Meas

PATTERN

INTRODUCTION.

1-4 M invites W to dance; they join inside hands, free arms held out; they still face each other.

FIGURE I. (Melody A & B). Figura rozwijana (see-goo-rah roh-z-vee-yah-nah):

- 1-3 Moving in LOD, starting with outside ft, using three basic steps, with a 1/4 turn open away from ptr, face ptr, open away (the extended outside arms do not do any special movements).
- 4 With one basic step done in place, M brings W to face him, he faces LOD, and they get into shoulder-shoulder pos.
- 5-7 With three basic steps, M moves fwd, W bkwd.
- 8 Both do a slow dip pointing knees L and then straightening them.
- 9-11 Still in shoulder-shoulder pos, both starting with L ft, with three even steps per meas done on the whole ft, stepping through the heel, with knees almost straight, ptrs walk CW around each other.
- 12 Two stamps and hold facing ptr.
- 13-15 Repeat action of meas 9-11, both starting with R ft, walking CCW.

ADA'S KUJAWIAK NO. 1 (continued)

- 16 Two stamps and hold while getting into the pos to begin, Fig. I.  
 17-31 Repeat action of Fig. I, but ...  
 32 Finish taking open shoulder-waist pos with outside fist on own hip; M back to ctr of circle.

FIGURE II. (Melody C). Odsibka (ot-sheep-kah):

- 1-3 Repeat action of meas 1-3, Fig. I.  
 4 Ct 1: M steps across in front of W with R ft; cts 2, &, 3: M pivots CW on the R ft, L knee up, and with a wide movement slaps twice his L thigh with his L hand. Meanwhile, W moves bkwd CW with three small steps.  
 5-7 With three even steps per meas, done on flat ft with knees bent, cpl turns CW, M moving fwd, W bkwd.  
 8 Two stamps and hold facing ptr; M back to ctr of circle.  
 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8, Fig. II.  
 1-96 Repeat entire dance twice, including the Introduction, during which ptrs balance away and twd each other, two hands held. The last time Fig. II is done only once.

THE SONG

Na wierzbowym listku słowik list pisze,  
 a gdy już napisał, przerwał wiatr ciszę,  
 przerwał listek, przerwał, zaniósł go wiośnie,  
 potem przysiadł na sosnie.

I skinęła ręką i wnet wyszło słońce,  
 słowik strzepnął piórka i po łące  
 dana, dana poszła piosnka  
 od samego rana

Księżyc już się za jasną, czapką, chmur skłonił,  
 kiedy wiosna listek wzięła w swe dłonie,  
 przeczytała słowa, w których był smutek,  
 żal słowika i nuty.

ADA'S KUJAWIAK NO. 1 (continued)

THE SONG (English translation)

The Nightingale wrote a letter on a willow leaf,  
When he finished it the wind interrupted the silence,  
The Nightingale cut off the leaf and carried it to Spring  
And then sat on a pine.

Spring waved her hand and the sun came out,  
The Nightingale fluttered his feathers  
And a song "dana, dana" burst forth in the meadow  
On that glorious morning.

The moon went down beyond the pale lining of the clouds  
When Spring took the leaf in her hands  
And read the words which contained  
The sadness and sorrow of the Nightingale.

Presented by Ada Dziewanowski

Notes prepared with assistance of Conny Taylor. Please do not reproduce  
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