

HALTE MICH FEST ("Hold Me Tight") Finland/Germany

A slow, simple waltz circle has been arranged for this beautiful song; it would make a lovely closure for a dance session. It is one of those dances that someone learned from someone; there may be a connection with the Findhorn Foundation, a spiritual community in Moray, Scotland, or other Sacred Circle groups. The Finnish song, "Pida Minusta Kiini" (Google it) may have been translated with some lyric changes into German and choreographed by Nanni Kloke (Google her). If anyone knows more, Sanna would like to hear.

Sanna learned the dance, "Halte Mich Fest" from Andi Kaplin at the Sarasota, Florida, IFD group. Andi learned it at her home group in Vancouver, B.C., from Judith Vetsch, who learned it when it was brought to Canada by Jim and Lyn Wisnia in 1995.

Music: Hearsay tells us that the music is courtesy of the Carisbrooke Circle Dancers on the Isle of Wight. The original Finnish melody with German lyrics has been recorded on the CD produced for the 2014 San Antonio Folk Dance Festival, For Educational Purposes Only. If anyone has more information, Sanna would like to hear.

Meter: 3/4

Formation: A closed circle, hands joined in V hold down at sides.

Measures

1 – 3 3-count grapevine: L steps across R, R to R side, L crosses in back

4 – 6 Sway R, L, R

7 – 12 Repeat grapevine and sways above

13 – 15 Repeat grapevine once more (no sways)

16 – 18 Take full turn to own right with R. L, R

19 – 24 L, R, L forwards into center; R, L, R backwards out of center

"Hold me tight": When backing out, drop joined hands and cross arms over own chest each time, or just the final time through the pattern.

Presented by Sanna Longden at this workshop. Notes by Sanna Longden ©2014, based on Andi Kaplin's teaching and description.