

NIU LI KO
(Republic of China)

The music is a well-known folk song from the country villages of Taiwan, "The Plough Song." In olden times, on festival days in the country, groups of people would go from house to house, singing the plough song and performing a sort of masque. The characters include a farmer driving an "ox" (another man was dressed up to represent the ox), and a young man and a young girl singing a duet, in which the country was wrapped up in scolding and witty answers. Nowadays, with the development of an industrial type of civilization in Taiwan and the modernization of agriculture, this old custom has practically died out. The song, however, is still popular and is often heard.

The dancing style of "The Ox-Plough Song" belongs to "Chu Ku Nung."

Pronunciation:

Record: C.C.S. - 1980 2/4 meter.

Formation: Cpls in double circle facing LOD, W on M's R, inside hands joined, free hands on hips.

Meas

Pattern

PART I.

- 1-3 Beginning with outside ft, take three light running steps fwd, body leans slightly fwd (cts 1,2,1). Step bkwd on inside ft, body leans bkwd, look at ptr (ct 2). Step hop fwd on outside ft (cts 1,2).
- 4-6 Repeat action of meas 1-3, beginning with inside ft.
- 7-12 Drop hands, do the same movements as in meas 1-6, but turn outward and make a full circle, ending facing LOD.

PART II.

Described for M; W do the opp ftwk. Both do the same hand movements.

- 13-15 Step L across R, turn body to face ptr slightly, R lift in back (ct 1); step R in place, facing LOD (ct 2). Step L next to R (ct 1); hold (ct 2). Stamp R beside L (ct 1); hold (ct 2). Both hands in front of waist, elbows bend at sides, fingers almost closed, R moves fwd, L moves bkwd, make a half CW turn, R hand does the movement in front as if to transplant rice seedlings (cts 1,2). Make a reverse (CCW) turn (cts 1,2). Both hands on hips (cts 1,2).
- 16-18 Reverse action of meas 13-15 on R, hand movements are same.
- 19-24 Repeat action of meas 13-18, ending facing ptr, M back to ctr

PART III.

- 25-26 Both beginning R, take a two-step diag R (cts 1,&,2). Step L across R, turn head to look at ptr, R lift in back (ct 1); step R in place, turn L to face ptr (ct 2).
- 27-28 Reverse action of meas 25-26 on L, to diag L.
- 29-32 Take four step-hops turn CW in place, free ft lifted in back with bent knee, body sways from side to side.
- 33-36 Four step-hops turning CCW in place

NIU LI KO (continued)INTERLUDE.

37-44 M's hands on R shldr, W's hands on hip, cpls lightly step
R,L,R, L,R,L, R,L,R, L,R,L fwd in a CW circle. End with
wt on M's R, W's L.

Repeat from beginning.

Presented by Ching-Shan Chang