

RATUKAS
(Lithuania)

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SOURCE: Raatiko, or Radiko, seems to be not a "certain dance", but a "family of dances", like Varsouvieene. Most folk dance lorists concede Raatiko to Finland as the home of origin even though it is also danced in Norway and Sweden. In Denmark and Germany it is known as "Lott is Dead", while the New Mexicans dance it as the Finns do and call it "La Camilla". The version described here could, perhaps, be called a Lithuanian version, but it is NOT a Lithuanian dance even though it is supplied to us by Kazys Sturpuras, the Baltimorean Lith who brought Koja, Koja, from Lithuania. Kazys says that the "Ratukas" (Little Wheel) tune was played by his father on the violin for a great number of years. The father might have picked it up from a Finnish community. But this version of the dance is a bit different from the regular run of Ratikas and it may prove to be an excellent mixer.

MUSIC: RECORD:

FORMATION: Stand in 2's in a regular ballroom dance pos anywhere on the floor,

MUSIC: 2/4

PATTERN

Meas

MUSIC A

1-16 During music A and for 16 meas polka anywhere on the floor. By the 16th meas, end in a large double circle. During music B
1-4 4 meas, ptrs join inside H's (M R holds W'S L) and march fwd 8 steps.

Music C

1-4 Face ptr and join both hands and slide bk with 8 slides to original place.

Repeat Music B & C

However M move up one ptr ahead and start the march with a new ptr and slide back again to original place.

Start dance from the very beginning, doing the polka with new ptr acquired during the previous marching.

Repeat to end of music.

Presented by Vyts Beliajus
Idyllwild Workshop Mix Master 1977