

RÁBAKÖZI CSÁRDÁS  
(Hungary)

This is a couple dance from the Rábaköz region.

Pronunciation:

Record: "Folk Dances and Folk Music of Hungary," Folkraft LP-40, side A, band 3, "Rábaközi Friss Csárdás." 2/4 meter

Formation: Cpls facing each other in shldr-waist pos.

Steps: Double Csárdás: (2 meas) Step on L to L (ct 1); step on R next to L (ct 2). Step on L to L (ct 1); close R to L (ct 2). Bend knee slightly with each step (on each ct) and straighten knee between cts, thus making this csárdás step rather bouncy. This step is also done beginning with R ft.

Double Csárdás, M Variation (with cpl turn): (4 meas) Beginning with wt on R, L ft slightly raised behind, step on L crossing behind R ft, bending knee and pulling ptr into a CCW turn as a cpl (ct 1); step on R sdwd to R, completing 1/2 turn (ct 2). Step on L sdwd to L, bending knee slightly (ct 1); close R to L, straightening knees (ct 2). With bouncy steps as described above for the basic Double Csárdás, take a small step on R to R (ct 1); step on L next to R (ct 2). Take a small step on R to R (ct 1); do a slight lift on R, while raising L ft behind, knee bent, preparing to repeat this step from the beginning (ct 2). This step is done turning 1/2 CCW each time, so that if it is repeated, a full CCW turn as a cpl would be made.

Szökkenős (Step-hops): (W only) (2 meas): Step on R with a slight accent, very slightly sdwd to R, bending knee (ct 1); hop on R in place, bringing L ft to R ankle (ct 2). Repeat with opp ftwk and direction (cts 1,2).

Sarkazó (Step-hops with heel-touches): (M only). (2 meas): Step on L slightly sdwd to L, with accent, bending knee (ct 1); hop on L, straightening both knees and touching R heel to floor in front (ct 2). Repeat with opp ftwk and direction, touching L heel fwd (cts 1,2).

Meas

Pattern

NO INTRODUCTION

A1 I. TWO LÉPÉSES CSÁRDÁS ("Two-step csárdás" or double csárdás)  
1-4 M dance one Double Csárdás step to L and one Double Csárdás step to R, while W do likewise but with opp ftwk (W start to their R).

RÁBAKŐZI CSÁRDÁS (continued)

- 5-16 Repeat action of meas 1-4 three times (four in all).  
On ct 2, meas 16, M do a slight lift on R, while raising L ft behind, knee bent, in preparation for Figure II.
- A2 II. TWO LÉPÉSES CSÁRDÁS FORDULÓVAL (Double Csárdás with half turns)
- 1-4 M dance one Double Csárdás, M Variation step, turning with ptr 1/2 CCW as a cpl.  
W repeat action of meas 1-4, Figure I. Take larger steps on the Double Csárdás to R and smaller steps on the Double Csárdás to L.
- 5-16 Repeat action of meas 1-4 three times, completing two full CCW turns. On ct 2, meas 16, M omit the raising of the L ft behind. Note: M tilts upper body slightly to the L as he leads W into each 1/2 turn. Cpls turn approximately on the spot without much traveling.
- A3-6 Repeat action of Figures I and II two more times (three  
64 meas in all). This corresponds to music A 3-6.
- A7 III. KIFORGÁS (Individual turns)
- 1-8 M dance the Sarkazó step four times, while W dance the Szökkenős step four times.
- 9-16 Release hold. Repeat action of meas 1-8, turning individually CW more or less in place. W ordinarily make two turns, M one turn, but the number of turns is optional. W usually place free hands at waist, while M usually hold hands up or clap. Resume shldr-waist pos at end.
- A8 IV. NŐ-FORGATÁS (M turns W)
- 1-8 Repeat action of meas 1-8, Figure III. On meas 8, M L hand takes W R hand from his shldr and prepares to turn her.
- 9-10 M dance one Sarkazó step in place while turning W once CW under his L arm. Make sure to bring joined hands all the way down at the end. W place free hand on waist (forming a "handle") and turn once CW with one Szökkenős step.
- 11-12 Repeat action of meas 9-10 but reverse the direction of the W turn.
- 13-16 While doing two Sarkazó steps, M grasps W L arm slightly above the elbow with his R hand, and using that as a "handle" he leads her into a CW spin, releasing both hands as she starts her turn and then making one CW turn himself. W, with two Szökkenős steps, make two CW turns individually. W usually place free hands at waist, while M usually hold hands up or clap. End facing ptr, ready to resume shldr-waist pos.
- A9-14 Repeat action of Figures III and IV three more times  
96 meas (four in all). This corresponds to Music A9-14.

RÁBAKÖZI CSÁRDÁS (continued)

The above is a description of a basic form of the dance. Many other variations exist, too numerous to detail here. Some of these involve nothing more than varying the number and/or direction of the turns or adding claps, slaps, or finger snaps as desired, but others are more complex. In addition, Figures I and II may be interchanged with Figures III and IV, and vice-versa, at any time during the dance (the music consists of only one tune repeated 14 times). This fact, together with the many variations, makes Rábaközi Csárdás really a free-style dance.

Presented by Kálmán and Judith Magyar