

# Ritka Legenyés

Origin: Hungary

Record: Special #3, Ritka Legenyés, or Qualiton LPX 18007, Lad's Dance (Ritka Magyar).

Formation: Individual dancers in a group, usually only a few dancing at a time and taking turns with others, close to the music or musicians.

Source: Martin, Lanyi. Motif selection by Czompo.

Note: RITKA (thin, sparse) in Transylvania-Hungarian dialect also means slow, when it is connected with dance names. LEGENYES comes from the word LEGI (lad or bachelor). This is a slow men's dance from the MEZŐSEG region in central Transylvania. It is related to the other Transylvanian men's dances, like the PONTOZO, SÚRÚ TEMPO, RITKA TEMPO, LEGENYES, but it has a couple of characteristics of its own. First of all, it is slower than the other Transylvanian men's dances. Secondly, the structural framework consists of four-motif sequences in which the fourth one usually ends with a heel click-close and a long pause. The accompanying music is notated in 2/4 measures. The dance's underlying rhythm is based on notes, played somewhat unevenly (called the "limping duvo") by the bass instruments. In this dance direction, however, the 4/4 meter is used with J and f notes instead of 1' and ) notes, which would make counting difficult. This method allows us to remain consistent with the formula which outlines a unit in the dance based on 8 measures, 2 for a motif sequence, in the usual structure of ABBC and/or AABC.

Meter: 2/4 & 4/4

Style:

## Basic steps and motifs:

1. Side move and heelclick
  - 1 Lift the R ft fwd R diag low
  - 2 Leap onto the R ft fwd R diag
  - 3 Step on the L ft behind the R ft (5th pos)
  - 4 Step on the R ft in front of the L ft (5th pos). In the meantime lift the L lower leg back L diag low
  - 5 Touch the L heel to the floor in front of the R ft with straight and slightly turned out leg
  - 6 Jump into a small 2nd pos with turned in toes and slightly bent knees
  - 7 Jump into 1st pos parallel clicking the heels together with straight knees
  - 8 Jump slightly fwd into a small knee bend
2. Heel clicks
  - 1 Spring into the air, turning slightly to the L. At the same time clap the hands together in front & Land on the L ft. At the same time lift the R lower leg to the back R diag and with the R hand hit the R ankle outside
  - 2 Step on the R ft beside the L ft in place & Step on the L ft in place
  - 3 Touch the R heel to the floor in front of the L ft. The knees are slightly bent and turned out
  - 4 Jump into 2nd pos, knees bent and turned in
  - 5 Jump into 1st pos parallel, clicking the heels together with straight knees
  - 6-7 Repeat cts 4-5 the same way
  - 8 Jump slightly fwd into a small knee bend
3. Boot slapping
  - 1 Spring into the air. At the same time clap the hands together in front & Land on the L ft. At the same time lift the R lower leg to the back R diag and with the R hand hit the R ankle outside
  - 2 Step into 2nd pos with the knees bent and the torso bent fwd & Hit the L boot top inside with the L hand
  - 3 Hit the R boot top inside with the R hand

- & Hit the L boot top inside with the l hand
- 4 Lift the R leg fwd R diag. At the same time start to straighten the torso and hit the R boot top with the R hand
- 5 Jump into 1st pos parallel with a heelclick and straighten torso to normal
- 6-7 Pause
- 8 Jump in' place with a slight accent, bending both knees slightly

4. Leg-twist and side-boot slap

- 1 Leap onto the L ft in place. At the same time lift the R lower leg behind and across the l leg
- 2 Small hop on the L ft in place, turning slightly to the l. At the same time tap the R toe to the R sd. The R knee is bent and turned in
- 3 Small hop on the l ft in place. At the same time swing the R ft fwd low
- 4 Jump into a small 4th pos parallel with bent knees
- 5 Straighten the R knee (or small hop on the R ft). At the same time lift the l lower leg in the back l diag and hit with the l hand the L ankle outside
- 6 Bend the R knee slightly. At the same time bring the L ft close to the R ankle
- 7 Small hop on the R ft in place. At the same time lift the l. leg fwd and with the l hand hit the l boot top inside.
- 8 Jump into 1st pos parallel bending both knees slightly

5. Long series of boot slap

- 1 Leap onto the L ft in place. At the same time lift the R ft fwd low with turned out and bent knee and bend the upper torso fwd
- & Hit with R hand the R boot top inside
- 2 Symmetrical repeat of cts 1
- 3 Step on the L ft in place and straighten torso to normal
- & Hit with L hand the l thigh outside. At the same time lift the R leg fwd with turned out and slightly bent knee
- 4 Hit with R hand the R boot top inside
- 5-8 Repeat cts 1-4 the same way with a slight change: the first movement is a hop on the L ft, which can be accompanied by a clap

## THE DANCE

The dance can be started at the beginning of any 8-measure musical phrase.

Meas

- 1-2 Side move and heelclick (#1)
- 3-4 Heel clicks (#2)
- 5-6 Heel clicks (#2) with opposite foot- and hand-work
- 7-8 Boot slapping (#3)
  
- 1-2 Leg twist and side boot slap (#4)
- 3-4 Leg twist and side boot slap (#4)
- 5-6 Long series of boot slapping (#5)
- 7-8 Boot slapping (#3)

Repeat the dance from the beginning, or rest for 8 or 16 measures before you start again.