

Name of dance: Alexandrovsky

Pronunciation: ah-lehk-ssahn-DRROHF-skee

Place of origin: 19th century Russian ballrooms

Learned from: Larry Weiner and Margaret Loomis, 1992

Source of music: Folk Dancer MH 1057

About the dance: This dance belongs to the genre of graceful 19th century ballroom dances invented by dancing masters in Russia for their clientele of middle and upper class city dwellers. Like many of these dances, *Alexandrovsky* was popular enough to spread throughout Russia, both cities and countryside, and both among ethnic Russians and among minorities such as the Jewish population. Michael and Marianne Herman in New York learned this dance from members of an orchestra that had played this dance for the Czar in Russia. It is a waltz.

Rhythm: 3/4

Formation: Couples stand in a large circle facing CCW, and holding inside hands (man's R, woman's L), outside feet free.

Direction	Measure	Step
♂→ ♀→	1	<u>Figure I:</u> Back to Back Starting with outside feet (man's L, woman's R) ready to move, take 3 walking steps forward, swinging held hands forward and ending up back to back with outstretched arms and hands. Don't let go of your partner's hand. (cts. 1,2,3).
	2	Staying in this back-to-back formation, step on the first count to one's side in the direction of travel on one's inside foot (man's R, women's L)(ct. 1), pause (ct. 2), then slide the other foot to close next to it on the third count (ct. 3).
	3-4	Repeat Measure 2 two more times.
←♂ ←♀	5	Repeat Measure 2 with reverse footwork, moving back toward where the dance started.
	6	Repeat the footwork of Measure 1, using it to swing held hands back and to turn to again face one's partner.
	7	Step towards where the dance started with one's inside foot and then close the outside foot to it.
	8	Repeat Measure 7.
	9-16	Repeat Measures 1-8.
↓ ↓ ↑	1-2	<u>Figure II:</u> Solo Circles Letting go of your partner and starting with your outside foot, take 6 walking steps to complete one small circle back to your partner. Men travel CCW, stepping LRL, RLR. Women travel CW, stepping RLR, LRL. Hands extend gracefully into the air.

Direction	Measure	Step
♂ → ♀ →	3	<u>Figure II</u> (continued): Facing one's partner, step on the first count to the side with one's free foot (men's L, women's R), and slide the other foot to close to it by the third count.
	4	Repeat Measure 3.
	5-8	Repeat Measures 1-4 with reverse footwork and direction.
	9-16	Repeat Measures 1-8.
♂ → ♀ →	1	<u>Figure III</u> : Turning to Face Back Turning to both face in the direction of travel, and taking both hands in "skaters' position" (R hands holding R hands, L hands holding L hands, all held forward in front at chest height), take 3 smooth walking steps forward. Men step LRL, women step RLR.
	2	Repeat Measure 1 with reverse footwork, using the last two steps to turn toward, and then past, one's partner, until both partners are facing back in reverse line of direction. Hands remain held throughout.
	3	Step back, men on L, women on R, and then slide free foot back to close next to standing foot.
	4	Repeat Measure 3.
← ♂ ← ♀	5-8	Repeat Measures 1-4 in mirror image.
	9-16	Repeat Measures 1-8.
	1-16	<u>Figure IV</u> : Open Waltz Take your partner in ballroom position, and waltz around the big circle for 16 measures.