

Kalinka - A Creative Russian Folk Dance

Presented by Laura Webster at *Pourparler 2010*
Shepherdstown, WV
– a Russian Folksong and Creative Dance in Russian Style

Juniper, juniper, juniper, my juniper,
In the garden there's the berry, my raspberry.

Калинка, калинка, калинка моя,
В саду ягода малинка, малинка моя,

Under the pine, under the green pine,
Lay me down to sleep

Под сосною под зеленою
Спать положите вы меня.

Oh you dear pine, oh you green pine,
Don't you rustle so loud over me

Ах! Сосенушка ты зеленая,
Не шуми же надо мной!

Beautiful maid, dear maid,
please fall in love with me!

Ах! Красавица, душа девица,
Полюби же ты меня!

- “Kalinka is usually sung with lots of exaggerated feeling. It is a classic Russian folksong about a snowball bush, a green bush with puffy white flowers and bitter berries. *Malinka* is a raspberry bush with sweet berries used to make wine. The bitter and the sweet are both aspects of love.” - (Patricia Shehan Campbell, 1994)

Teaching Process for Kalinka – Creative Folk Dance

- Begin by teacher singing verse of Kalinka in English while walking around the room (scattered formation) – encourage students to walk around the room too.
- After the first phrase walk in the opposite direction making sure to stress the fermata at the end of the phrase (this can become CCW and then CW – but it doesn't need to be.)
- Talk about the regal feeling of the song. Find a partner to walk with.
- Demonstrate the “skater” or promenade hand hold. On the verse, walk with a partner. (At this point the group will naturally gravitate to moving in the same direction – I usually go CCW and then CW on the second phrase)

- During the refrain the teacher sings (in Russian – it’s not that hard!) while the students clap the beat. What do you notice about the beat of this section? *It’s getting faster – accelerando*
- If they don’t know grapevine step – do a simple side close step in a circle CCW – no hand holds - for the refrain
- If they know the grapevine step then do a grapevine step for 32 beats in a circle – you could add holding hands/holding shoulders at this point depending on the age/ability of the dancers
- This is the basic form of the dance. Students will naturally move to accelerando in the refrain.
- *At this point you could continue singing the song – performing the Orff arrangement or move to recorded music. See the references for “Kalinka” options. I will be using the Fischer Price and Roots and Branches recordings sited below in the music references.*
- Talk about the history of Russian dancing [taken from an article written by Mikhail Smirnov (Smirnov) (any of the below may be fun to share, but don’t take too much time for talking – better to dance!):
 - “First official record of Russian dancing is related to year 907 when **Great Russian Prince Oleg** (Vechshiy Oleg) celebrated his victory over Greeks in Kiev. During the Gala Dinner 16 male dancers dressed as bears and four bears dressed as Russian dancers performed for the guests. After the dinner was over Great Prince commanded to release the bears into the wild and to execute all the dancers.
 - real developers of Russian dance were so-called “skomorokhi” – street entertainers semi-forbidden by the Church. Among the performers of the troupe some were strong in tricks, others in foretelling, some could sing and dance but all of them were good thieves.
 - When the Czar (Ivan the Terrible) was tired of the show, all the artists were sent to the army or jail. Unlike the artists of the ensemble [Barynya](#), court dancers constantly thought of the new tricks and performances and the rest of the time they spent rehearsing.
 - After the civil war has ended and the blood of the revolution has dried out Soviets allotted the money to organize the first state funded troupe of the

Russian folk dancers. In 1937 the first professional ensemble of Russian folk dance was born under the leadership of Igor Moiseyev

- Neither the audience nor the dancers or the director of the ensemble know for sure how the dance performance is going to end. As a result of this creative collaboration some very interesting and eye-pleasing combinations could be born right on stage but they also may end up in a failure.

Thus, the choreography of the Russian folk dance is returning to its roots of improvisation. “ (Smirnov)

- With your partner find some way to “show off” some examples might be a fun hand clapping pattern, some kind of acrobatics, a bit of weight sharing etc. Whatever they like (that’s not too dangerous!) to fill the refrain of the song.
- Based on what students already know about floor patterns (simple/young students – circle) (more challenging/older students – coach and horses or Polonaise figures) create pathways for the verse section – everyone singing the verse in English
- During the refrain, practice your “show off” move with your partner.
- Divide the class in half and show the refrain choreography to each other – the half of the class that’s watching should clap the beat
- Demonstrate/show the famous “preesyadka” step which is so much a part of Russian folk dance – see if there is any student that could do that challenging move – tell the history:
 - “At the same time, mason **Petro Preesyadka** didn’t go with the swindlers looting shops and houses but was working hard, spending all day in a squatting position with heavy stones and instruments in his strong toil-hardened hands. Every evening after work he went walking on Khreschatyk (Kiev's Broadway) and after having some wine and a loaf of kalatch (bagel) he started jumping up trying to release tension in his tired legs.

The best loved **Velikiy Kniaz of Kievan Rus Vladimir Monomakh** was invited by the Kievan populace to stop the chaos on the streets of the city. He was passing by with his bodyguards when he saw a strange dance performed by a big man on the street. He pointed the dancing guy out to the **Mitropolit Nikifor** and just few days later **Petro Preesyadka** was dancing at the Monomakh's Palace at every breakfast, lunch and dinner. It is even rumored that Petro shared a drink with the Velikiy Kniaz himself. “ (Smirnov)

- Perform the dance again with the group doing the grapevine step for the B section with a dancer/dancers doing the “preesyadka” step in the middle of the circle. *Any other individual acrobatics would be acceptable!*
- Watch a video clip of the Barnya dance company performing the Kalinka or the Hathaway Brown Students performing. Also the youtube link:
 - “Russian Dance Kalinka” Online video clip. YouTube. Accessed on 9/23/10

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydRjBbW>

- After watching the video(s) of Russian folk dancing elements, create a list (verbal or written) of some moves we could do/adapt for the classroom
 - i.e. the **Preesyadka** could be a hop/kick
 - – the **Tchetchotka** is a type of stomping or foot percussion like tap dancing – what kind of footwork could we do?
 - “the **Drobushki, or Peresek, or Chechetka, - Russian step dance** (heel work), always go together with khlapuski (slapping) and also prisyatki (squat work). All these difficult moves used by dancers to express flirtation, challenge and competition.” (Smirnov)
- Divide into smaller groups to choreograph the refrain section - create a whole dance with A and B sections featuring small group choreography based on Russian folk dance elements.

- The dance can be any amount of A and B sections long if you have live music. If you are using the Fisher Price recording, the form is:

A – 32 beats (two sung phrases of the verse)

B – 32 beats (two sung phrases of the chorus”Kalinka”) – the other B phrases are done twice

A – 32 beats

B’- 64 beats (four sung phrases of the chorus – clapping marks the mid point)

A – 32 beats

B’- 64 beats

If you are using the Roots and Branches recording, the form is:

A – 32 beats (Verse)

B – 32 beats (Kalinka)

A – 32 beats (Verse)

B – 32 beats (Kalinka)

Kalinka

arr: Laura Webster 2008

Traditional Russian Folksong

$\text{♩} = 80$

Voice: Un - der the pine tree un - der the green tree, lay me -

Glockenspiel: $\text{♩} = 80$

Xylophone

6

Voice: 1. dow - n to sleep sweet sleep. 2. Sleep, sweet, sleep. (Ka) -

Glockenspiel: 1. 2.

Xylophone: 1. 2.

11

Voice: lin - ka, Ka - lin - ka, Ka - lin - ka - ma - ya! Fsa-du ya - good-ka ma -

Tambourine

Xylophone

16

Voice: lin - ka - ma - lin - ka - ma - ya! **Fine** Ahh - **D.C. al Fine** ahh - ahh!

Tambourine: **Fine** **D.C. al Fine**

Xylophone: **Fine** **D.C. al Fine**

Music References

1. "Kalinka" – Fischer Price: Songs from Around the World - Somerset Entertainment 2002

*I know this sounds cheesy to use Fisher Price, but if you cut the first **14** seconds in itunes, it has a great form for younger children to follow and a predictable accelerando.*

2. "Kalinka" – Ekaterina "Katya" Ponomavera - Recorded by Paul A.Yacovett for Roots and Branches – 1994 World Music Press

This is a great recording of a simple version of Kalinka with the Russian pronunciation. The book will also give you a great insight into Russian culture as well as the sheet music for "Kalinka" – see the references below for the book information.

3. "Kalinka" - Igor Yuzov of Red Elvises, Limpopo & Oleg Bernov of Red Elvises: Limpopo-Crazy Russian Folk and Rock 'N' Roll Music – Shooba Doobah 1991

This is a wonderful recording for all the rowdy Russian singing in it. My kids loved hearing it!

4. "Kalinka (Dance Along)" - Trio Voronezh – Peter and the Wolf - Maestro Classics/Magic Maestro Music 2007

This is a good recording although the first accelerando is almost too fast to dance to. As it progresses, it gets better – maybe a good choice for a performance.

References

1. "Russian Dance" - Mikhail Smirnov. 1991
<http://www.barynya.com/RussianDance/russian-dance.htm>

Barynya entertainment is providing dancers, singers, virtuoso musicians and ensembles since 1991 (online since 1998).

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2. Roots and Branches: A Legacy of Multicultural Music for Children - Patricia Shehan Campbell, Ellen McCullough-Brabson and Judith Cook Tucker. World Music Press. 1994 pgs. 86-91

3. "Kalinka Dance History" – Tiffany Ross – June 14, 2010 eHow.com
http://www.ehow.com/about_6624912_kalinka-dance-history.html

Video Clips

- This is the video clip that my student downloaded for me to show the class the folkdance stylings for the Kalinka:

http://www.barynya.com/barynya/russian_folk_dance_kalinka.htm

- These are some other videos that I have shown in my classroom to show the style of Russian folkdance with the song, "Kalinka."

"Russian Dance Kalinka" Online video clip. YouTube. Accessed on 9/23/10

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydRjBbW>