

# OIRA, OIRA

An easy dance from Latvia that can be done to instrumental accompaniment: accordion or... The only words are "Oira! Oira!" - nonsense! Pronounce the "r" almost like an American "d." This comes from Zinta Pone, who grew up in Minneapolis but whose family spoke Latvian: she didn't learn English until she started Kindergarten! Zinta learned this game on a trip to Latvia.

## *Formation:*

Two concentric circles, boys on the inside facing out, girls on the outside facing in.

## *Directions:*

### First half:

Partners stamp, stamp, stamp then twice touch right feet to each other as they say "Oira, Oira!" Repeat with left feet, right shoulders, left shoulders and hips or butts (just one touch) then bow.

### Second half:

Polka or schottische step counter-clockwise around the circle. On the last bar ladies continue counterclockwise one place to the next gent.

The musical notation is in 2/4 time and consists of three staves. The first staff contains three measures of music with the lyrics "Oi - ra, oi - ra!", "Oi-ra, oi-ra!", and "Oi-ra, oi-ra!". The second staff contains two measures of music with the lyrics "Oi - ra, oi - ra!" and "Oi - ra, oi - ra!". The third staff is a single line of music without lyrics.

Source: Recorded by Zinta Pone, Minneapolis, MN, March 11, 1996.