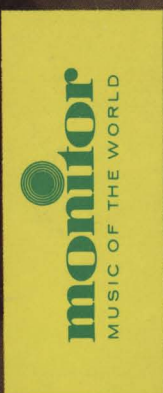


STEREO

MFS 784

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN

FOLK BALLET
LÚČNICA



DESIGN: EDWARD BUXBAUM



LUČNICA

Czechoslovakian Folk Ballet from Bratislava

Director and Choreographer Ing. Štefan Nosal/Conductor Miroslav Šmid



"You can't argue with success!"

When newspaper reviews headline LUČNICA as "A BIG HIT!", "A SMASH," "A BREATHTAKING SHOW!", or "A SPECTACLE OF GUSTO AND GRACE" and so on, it is acknowledged that this fine company is indeed great entertainment.

LUČNICA, however, is much more than an entertaining dance company.

Under the superb supervision of its master choreographer Ing. Štefan Nosal and its brilliant orchestra conductor Miroslav Šmid, this company has been trained and disciplined to function so precisely and harmoniously that LUČNICA has succeeded in incorporating three important ingredients into this folk ballet: fantastic choreography, incredible energy display, and the youthful enthusiasm of all the artists.

As a result, LUČNICA's performance is an excellent presentation of sophisticated folk art in beautifully costumed settings which is so contagious that it inspires audience participation. Trying to describe this appeal, critics write: "LUČNICA is a moving experience." "Its program captivates the senses." "LUČNICA is a spectacular show of human love, achievement and art!"

LUČNICA's music is taken from Slovakia's rich heritage, a mirror of the country's landscapes; from the haunting improvisations of lonely shepherds to the rhapsodic, impassioned folk style of Slovakian fiddling.

LUČNICA was founded in 1948 in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, the eastern part of the Federation called Czechoslovakia. From the young group of enthusiasts in 1948 it has progressed to what the United States press called "the perpetual motion machine that is better than diplomats."

Composer credits:

Svetozar Stračina:
Side One, Nos. 2, 4, 5, 6
Side Two, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6

Tibor Andrašovan
Side One, No. 7
Side Two, No. 2

Miroslav Šmid
Side One, No. 3

Juraj Farkas
Side Two, No. 1

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Side One

1. THE MUSICAL SIGNATURE OF THE "LUCNICA" ENSEMBLE

2. THE SHARISH POLKA

A fast-paced dance from Eastern Slovakia in which cavalymen, wearing spurs, dance with girls of their choice to determine their acceptability for marriage.

3. THE TOSSING DANCE

This *Vyhadzovana* dance from Trenčin gradually gets more complex as the men hurl their partners through the air, onto their knees, hips and shoulders to show off their manly strength and ability.

4. SPRING ARRIVES

This is a beautiful ritual dance from the pagan Slavs welcoming spring and showing a respect and love for it.

5. GYPSY CZARDAS

Musical excellence, great vitality, and high emotions are part of the Gypsies' character as evinced in this marvelous "capase."

6. EMBROIDERY SONGS

A delightful set of short songs to enhance the good mood while sitting together, embroidering lovely materials.

7. DETVA FESTIVAL

Incredibly fast footwork and dynamic participation of all dancers stand out in this series of dances from the Detva highlands near Banská Bystrica in Slovakia.

Side Two

1. GYPSY CZARDAS (Part II: "Romanes")

2. VALASHKA

This is a male dance performed with hatchets called valashkas. It celebrates the feats of a folk hero, Juro Janosik who, with his followers, fought for freedom—their only weapon being the valashkas.

3. GIFTS FOR THE HONEYMOON

Excited girl friends of the bride try out all the gifts received, including the bedding and cushions.

4. FUNNY HAT DANCE

Competitive and humorous dance from Myjara matching wits and speed to see who can hold on to one's hat the longest.

5. SEVEN KINDS OF KRUCENA

A beautiful representation of the summer customs around the town of Krucena.

6. FESTIVAL IN ZEMPLIN

Segments of the annual festival in Zemplin are presented here. Well-poised and graceful youngsters get so excited watching it that they cannot stay out any longer and join in the fun with giant leaps and great energy.