Folk Dances of Austria, Vol. 3
TRADITIONAL SCHUHPLATTLER DANCES
Played by Karl Zaruba and His Schuhplattler Dance Band
Compiled and Edited by Ronnie and Stu Lipner with the Austrian Information Center,
Kurt Hampe, Director
Folkways Records FW 8839
Recorded in Austria
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TRADITIONAL SCHUHPLATTLER DANCES

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Production Supervision, Moses Asch

Breathes there a person who hasn't seen the Schuhplattler Dances, come away clapping and slapping, either consciously or unconsciously to themselves wishing they could partake in them for real.

For these dances, above all stand out as representatives of, the highest form of the Austrian Folk Dance. Their infectious rhythms, and the sheer delight experienced by dancer and audience in performing and seeing them performed spreads a happiness that is hard to describe.

With this happiness as a keynote, Folkways Records, The Austrian Information Center, and Ronnie & I, present a whole disc full of these Schuhplattlers. So whether you be a Dancer, or Teacher, slap yourself silly if necessary, practice until your hands and feet hurt, let yourself go, and have one grand ball in doing it. After all the aches and pains subside, you will say, "it was worth it."

- Stu Lipner

FORMATION AND PRELIMINARY FIGURES OF THE SCHUHPLATTLER

Except where otherwise stated, the following is applied to all dances on this record. Double circle of couples around the dance floor. Boys are on the inside, Inside hands joined. (Boy's R, Girls L)

ENTRANCE PART - played to introduce all Schuhplattlers.

a-first long musical note, swing joined hands forward, turning slighly back to back.

b-second long musical note, swing joined hands backward, turning slightly face to face.

c-the next 4 musical notes:

Girl- turns completely about with a twirl, hands on hips.
Boy- slaps R hand to R thigh, L hand to L thigh, slaps R shoesole, (Outside), and stamps with R foot.

BOLZER - 16 MEASURES OF MUSIC

a-Girl- Turns around in place or around partner, hands are on her hips, and she is watching Boy.

Boy - Slap R hand R thigh, L hand L thigh, R hand R thigh, R hand R shoesole (Outside), R hand L shoesole, from the back, L hand L thigh, R hand R thigh, R hand L shoesole, from back, L hand L thigh, place right hand at eye level, R leg is swung up to hit it. Kneel down on R ft, Jump up on L, and stamp once with R ft.

LANDLER - 16 MEASURES OF MUSIC

a-In closed dance position couple dances around the circle with 2 Landler steps, then while Boy is holding the Girl's R hand, with his L, she turns to her right under the arch formed, with 2 more Landler Steps, while Boy does these 2 Landler steps moving forward.
This part can also be danced with the Girl turning continuously under the Arch formed. At the end of 3, 7, or 15 measures, Boy may also stamp his R foot twice for the 4th, 8th or 16th Measure.

7-An Example of the Schuhplattler Rhythm

There is no one traditional rhythm but the following version shows the continuous half-beat rhythm which is characteristic.

Stand with feet slightly apart, knees relaxed;

Slap R thigh with R hand
" L " " L "
" the inside of L ft., which is raised across the R Leg, with R hand.
" L thigh with L hand
" R thigh with R hand
" L thigh with L hand

Slap outside R ft., which is raised sideways, knee slightly bent, until Leg is nearly horizontal, with R hand.
Slap L thigh with L hand
" R " " R hand
Slap L thigh with R hand
" inside of L ft. with R hand.
" L thigh with L hand

Repeat above movements.

These movements are worked up with a steady Step-Hop on alternate feet, raising the L leg across the body, while hopping of the R ft. The Step-Hop is continuous throughout the three beat rhythm, and is practiced as follows;

1 and 2 and 3 and 1 and 2 and 3 and
Hop Hop Hop

8-When performing the Plattler;

a- The torso remains straight and erect.
b- The Hops and Jumps described are so lightly performed, that the torso remains practically motionless. The foot carrying the weight hardly leaves the ground.
c- An easy way to perform the slaps, is that the feet should be allowed to slap against the hands, rather than the hands slapping the feet. This will be awkward at first, but with practice, you will get used to it.

9-During the Plattler part, the Girls walks, or waltz around the circle of Men, keeping equal distances between them. Their timing is such, that at the end of the Plattler sequence, they must be by their partner, so that when he turns around, they can go into the next part of the dance.

SIDE I, Band 1: HEIM IM WINKEL (Plattler)

Plattler: The boy faces the inside of the circle while the girl steps in back of him and turns herself about while the boy dances the following steps twice; Stamps with the right foot, stamps with the left foot, stamps with the right foot, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right shoe-sole (from the inside), left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right shoe-sole (from the outside).
SIDE I, Band 2: HEIDAUER PLATTLER SEQUENCE

The following steps are repeated three times by the dancer: Right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the front), left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the outside), left hand left thigh, right foot stampe, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, right hand right thigh, right foot stampe, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, right foot stampe, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh.

The following steps are repeated four times by the dancer: Right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the front), left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right shoesole (from the outside), left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right shoesole (from the outside), left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, right hand right shoesole (from the outside), left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, right foot stampe, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, right foot stampe.

SIDE I, Band 3: ENZIANER (Plattler)

Right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right shoesole (from the outside), right hand left shoesole (from the back), left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the front), left hand right shoesole (from the back), right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right shoesole (from the outside), left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the back), left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the front), left hand right shoesole (from the back), right hand right thigh, right hand right shoesole (from the outside), right hand right shoesole (from the outside), right hand right shoesole (from the outside), right hand right shoesole (from the outside), right hand left shoesole (from the back), left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the back), left hand right shoesole (from the front), left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the back), right hand right thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the back), right hand right thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the front), right hand right thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the front), right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the front), left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, right hand right shoesole (from the outside).

This is danced three more time without the stamping or handclapping. At the end the following steps are added: Right hand right thigh, right hand right heel (from the inside), right hand right thigh, right foot stampe.

SIDE II, Band 1: WATSCHENPLATTLER

This is strictly a boy's dance consisting of several parts. Entrance - Bolse. After the bolse one partner places his right hand on the left shoulder of the other, who in return places his left hand on the right shoulder of the other, they move about in this fashion until they come to the part of the dance where each stamps his foot twice, at which point they change partners until the platller part of the dance.

The Plattler used for this version of the WATSCHENPLATTLER is the same Plattler as in Reit im Winkel, the difference being that in this dance, only boys partake.

Bolse - Two boys face each other diagonally. The first touches the back of the neck of his opponent with the left hand, who bends down and claps his hand. Then the second one touches the back of the neck of the first one, while he claps.

Bolse - Right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the front), left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right shoesole (from the outside), left hand left thigh, right hand right shoesole (from the outside), right hand left shoesole (from the back), left hand left thigh, right hand right shoesole (from the front), left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the back), left hand left thigh, right hand right shoesole (from the outside), left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the back), right hand right thigh, right hand right shoesole (from the outside), right hand left shoesole (from the back), left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the back), left hand right shoesole (from the front), left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the back), right hand right thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the back), left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the back), right hand right thigh, right hand right shoesole (from the outside).

This is repeated twice. The third time the boys go through the neck slapping part and continue as follows: right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the front), left hand left thigh, right hand right shoesole (from the outside), left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the back), left hand left thigh, right hand right shoesole (from the outside), right hand right thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the back), left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the back), right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right shoesole (from the outside).

This is repeated once from the bolse part on, after the Landler.

Bolse, the Landler, and to conclude the boy's kneel down.

SIDE II, Band 2: BLUMBACHFALER (Plattler)

The following steps are repeated twice by the dancer: Right hand right thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the inside), left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, right hand right thigh, right hand right heel (from the inside), left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, right hand right thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the back), left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, right foot stampe.

The following steps are danced once only: Right hand right thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand left shoesole (from the front), left hand left thigh, right hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh.
hand left thigh, right hand right heel (from the inside), left hand left thigh, right hand left shoe sole (from the back), right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand left thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right heel (from the inside), left hand left thigh, right hand left shoe sole (from the inside), right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand left thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right heel (from the inside), left hand left thigh, right hand left shoe sole (from the inside). 

SIDE II, Band 3: STEPPFEL VON TALSHAUX (Plattler)

The following steps are repeated twice by the dancer:

Right foot stamps, left foot stamps, right foot stamps, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right shoe sole (from the outside) right hand left shoe sole (from the back), right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand left shoe sole (from the front), left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right shoe sole (from the outside), right hand left shoe sole (from the back), right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand left shoe sole (from the front), left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right shoe sole (from the outside), right hand left shoe sole (from the back), left hand left thigh, right foot swings up to eye level, right hand touches tip of shoe.

After the repetition of the sequence, the dancer kneels down on the right foot to complete the set.

SIDE II, Band 4: DACHUR (Plattler)

Following steps are danced three times:

Right foot stamps, right foot is lifted up, clap hands under the right foot, clap hands above the right foot, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand left shoe sole (from the front), left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right shoe sole (from the outside), right hand left shoe sole (from the back), left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh.

The following steps are to be danced four times:

Right foot stamps, right foot is lifted up, clap hands under the right foot, clap hands above the right foot, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand left shoe sole (from the front), left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right shoe sole (from the outside), right foot stamps.

SIDE II, Band 5: TRAHNDALER (Plattler)

The following steps are danced three times:

Right foot stamps, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, right foot stamps, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand left shoe sole (from the front), left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right shoe sole (from the outside).

The following steps are danced four times:

Right foot stamps, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, right foot stamps, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right shoe sole (from the inside), left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right shoe sole (from the outside).

CONCLUDING SEQUENCE

Stamp with the right foot, stamp with the left foot, stamp with the right foot, stamp with the right foot, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand left shoe sole (from the inside), left hand left thigh, right hand right thigh, left hand left thigh, right hand right shoe sole (from the outside). The boy takes the left hand of the girl in his right hand, and lifts her right hand up high with his left hand, the girl turns to the right so that her left hand is resting against her back, then the boy kneels down on his right foot. The hands must remain clasped during this concluding figure.