

VĖDARAS

Lithuanian

- PRONUNCIATION: VEH-dah-rahss
- TRANSLATION: The blood sausage or the blood pudding
- SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned this dance from Vyts Beliajus, a Lithuanian immigrant who has been called the "Father of Folk Dancing in the United States."
- BACKGROUND: "Originally, Vėdaras, or its variants, were performed on the eve before Lent, when special blood sausages and blood puddings were made as a last meal before no meat was allowed to be eaten. The clapping stamping indicate the stuffing of the filling in the casing of vėdarai, or black pudding. It is the national dish of Lithuania and is made of baked pork casings with different mixtures. The two most popular sorts of vėdarai filling are mashed potatoes and blood (kraujinis). Vėdarai are served with a sauce of cracklings as a side dish. The family pig is slaughtered, the blood is first stored and later used to fill its guts, which are then fried or grilled. The final product looks a lot like a sausage, except it is of course made from blood.
- MUSIC: Folkraft (LP) LP-35, "Viltis Lithuanian Folk Dances," side B, band 1.
- FORMATION: Closed cir of cpls, hands joined and held down in "V" pos.
- METER/RHYTHM: 2/4
- STEPS/STYLE: POLKA: Hop L (ct & of previous meas); step R (ct 1); step L or close L to R taking wt (ct &); step R (ct 2). Repeat with opp ftwk.

MEAS	MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION
	INTRODUCTION
1-2	No action.
	I. FIGURE ONE
1-3	Dance 3 Polka steps to R in LOD;
4	Releasing handhold, stamp L without wt and clap own hands (ct 1); stamp L without wt and clap own hands (ct 2);
5-8	Repeat action of meas 1-4 to L in RLOD with opp ftwk.
	CHORUS
1-2	Hook R elbows with ptr and turn in CW in place with 4 Polka steps;
3-4	Hook L elbows with ptr and turn in CCW in place with 4 Polka steps.

II. FIGURE TWO

- 1-3 In cpls, all facing R in LOD, M R hand around W waist, W L hand around M waist, dance 3 Polka steps beg M L, W R, CW in LOD;
- 4 Stamp free ft (M L, W R) and clap ptrs hands, M L, W R (ct 1); stamp free ft (M L, W R) and clap ptrs hands, M L, W R (ct 2);
- 5-7 Releasing hold and turning to face RLOD, M L hand around W waist, W R hand around M waist, dance 3 Polka steps beg M R, W L, CCW in RLOD;
- 8 Stamp free ft (M R, W L) and clap ptrs hands, M R, W L (ct 1); stamp free ft (M R, W L) and clap ptrs hands, M R, W L (ct 2).

CHORUS

- 1-4 Repeat action of "Chorus" after Fig I.

III. FIGURE THREE

- 1-3 Releasing elbow hold, M face R in LOD and dance 3 Polka steps in LOD, while W face ctr and dance 3 Polka steps twd ctr;
- 4 M stamp L without wt as W clap neighbors' hands on both sides (ct 1); M stamp L without wt as W clap neighbors' hands on both sides (ct 2);
- 5-7 M turn R and beg L dance 3 Polka steps in RLOD, while W turn to the outside of the cir and beg R dance 3 Polka steps to orig pos;
- 8 Stamp free ft (M L, W R) and clap ptrs hands, M R, W L (ct 1); stamp free ft (M L, W R) and clap ptrs hands, M R, W L (ct 2);

CHORUS

- 1-4 Repeat action of "Chorus" after Fig I.

IV. FIGURE FOUR

- 1-3 Join R hands with ptr and dance 3 Polka steps doing a "Grand R and L," passing three dancers;
- 4 Stamp free ft without wt and clap 4th dancer's L hand (ct 1); stamp free ft without wt and clap 4th dancer's L hand;
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 with the 7th dancer becoming the new ptr.

CHORUS

- 1-4 Repeat action of "Chorus" after Fig I.

Repeat entire dance from beg.