

B A V A R I A N Z W I E F A C H E

Commentary by John Filcich,
Festival Records, Los Angeles

Known as the Zwiefacher, Bayerischer, Übern Fuass, and other names these "mixed rhythm" dances native to Bavaria are currently regaining popularity among German dance groups, partly thanks to Otto Ebner's brass band in München (Munich), and their recordings on the TANZ record label. The "two rhythms" of the Zwiefacher are the 3/4 waltz and the 2/4 "dreher" turn; the melody of a Zwiefacher song is so contrived as to give the dancer a certain number of waltz steps then changes rhythm for one, two, or more dreher steps. The complete patterns for several popular "Zwiefachen" are given here, however, native dancers simply learn the tune (to the point of being able to hum or whistle along) and the music thereby is the guide for the "Verzwickten" (tricky change).

Because of this unusual change from 3/4 to 2/4 and back, these dances present somewhat of a challenge to the American folk dancer; these mixed rhythms are not unlike those of the Bulgarian horo and other Balkan dances. Dancers enjoying the latter might well be attracted to the Bavarian Zwiefacher (as was the writer). Dancers used to the variety in pattern dances often tire of the constant turning movement in these dances; this can be overcome by reversing the turn--it can be to the right or to the left. A couple may even dance straight ahead for a rest; fortunately there are no set rules, other than dancing according to the traffic.

Otto Ebner is a native of Deggendorf in Niederbayern (Lower Bavaria) and has for many years directed a large brass band in München which is well known and much in demand everywhere, especially among folk dance groups due to the large repertoire of folk dance music. Otto Ebner has done considerable research in the field, discovering many interesting dance tunes. As an advertising leaflet says, since youth he has the correct rhythm "in his legs". Recently this famous orchestra recorded 15 Zwiefacher dances on three 45-EP records as well as a series of simple, typical folk dances of Bavaria.

Folk dancers should discover this new dance experience; the challenge of the changing rhythms will stimulate a new interest and give the dancer another concept of folk dancing around the world.

BAVARIAN ZWIEFACHE

Descriptions by John Filcich,
Festival Records, Los Angeles

Sources: Die Zwiefachen by Felix Hoerbuerger (Akademie-Verlag, Berlin, 1956) is a very comprehensive covering of the subject; correspondence with Walter Kögler, producer of TANZ records, and personal study in Stuttgart and München and observing the Bavarian Maifest were all done in 1962.

Steps: The dreher step is similar to the pivot-turn step except that it is earthy and heavier. This is truer when there are more than two dreher steps in a sequence, or the music is slower. Fast music tends to produce the ordinary pivot steps.....

Morry & Nancy Gelman Weekend
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Miami Valley Folk Dancers

Dayton, Ohio

BAVARIAN ZWIEFACHE, Continued

Steps: The waltz (W), in the directions given here, denotes one waltz
cont'd step (LRL for example).

The dreher step (D) denotes one dreher step done to one measure
of 2/4 music (e.g. R ft.).

For example WDDD means 2 waltz steps (LRL; RLR) plus 2 dreher
steps (L,R) to 4 meas of the "mixed" music.

Record: Tanz EP-56-909 mixed meter 2/4 and 3/4 *Formations*

Formation: Couples, ballroom position, anywhere about the floor.

SAULOCKER

(For your information; will not be presented)

INTRODUCTION: 6 measures.
PATTERN: DDDDWWDDDDWW / DDDDWWDDDDWW

WINTERGRÜN

INTRODUCTION: 4 meas
PATTERN: WWWDDWDDWW

LEIT, LEIT

INTRODUCTION: 5 meas
PATTERN: D D W W W D D W W W D D W W W D D W W

EISENKEILNEST

INTRODUCTION: 4 meas
PATTERN: D D W W D D W W D W D W D D W W

TAUBERER

(For your information; will not be presented)

INTRODUCTION: 4 meas
PATTERN: WWWDDDDWW / WWWDDDDWW /
WWWWWWW / WWWDDDDWW /
WWWWWWW / WWWDDDDWW

2-4-6
NO INTRODUCTION
DDWW
DDDDWW
DDDDDDWW

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at the Thirtieth Annual
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