

15. MOSCOW NIGHTS

a party dance

to a favourite Russian song

three couple set

Introduction (first time only)

All swing partner, ending facing up, man giving inside hand to partner.

- A All lead up a double, cast away (ML, WR) back to place and face partner (8).
Partners back to back Rsh (8).

- B1 Middle persons turn R to face neighbours (M2 down to face M3, W2 up to face W1), and those pairs, starting Rsh, begin half heys for 3 on the line, to turn the lines upside down, ending with the same pairs still facing at the other end of the line (8).
The pairs set R&L and pass Rsh to change places (8).

ending thus: (top) W3 W1 W2
M2 M3 M1

- B2 Take hands in lines of three: go forward and back (8).
All swing opposite (new partner), and face up to continue (8).

Repeat 2x (or 5x)

last time, as the swing ends, dancers may face up, man keeping arm around lady's waist, and on the first beat of the last bar, raise their free arm (man's L, woman's R), shouting "Hi!". Use with discretion.

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Moscow nights

Steady $\text{♩} = 100$

Intro. First time only

A B

[PLAY 3x ABB]

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I first met this very popular Russian song when I was learning Russian on one of the special teachers' courses set up some 30 years ago aimed at increasing the number of Russian teachers in Great Britain. My interest in it was rekindled recently when I was asked whether I could copy out the music for a musician friend, and it occurred to me that the tune was attractive and memorable enough to use as the basis of a dance. I had assumed that the tune was traditional, but it is in fact modern and still under copyright.

The beautiful words of the song tell of the songwriter's wistful memories of the calm and stillness of summer evenings with his sweetheart in the countryside by the rivers and woodlands in the environs of Moscow.