WINTER EARTH

Chor. Paul Boizot, 2010. Music; Mi Atyank Atya Isten by Anonymous 4 from the album "Christmas Music From Medieval Hungary", available from Amazon mp3* or Itunes. The original is not very long, so I use a lengthened recording.

Formation; circle. Rhythm 3/8. Each step is 3 beats unless otherwise described. Once through the tune, and the dance, is 7 units of 4 bars each. I have found it easier to describe the dance in that format. There is a pause of 2 bars before the singing, and the dance, starts again. No intro.

The dance can be done to either the right or the left.

1. ⊃→ arms V R, L, R q 2 beats, L q 1 beat, R (i.e. slip step, "rum-ti-tum" rhythm).
2. as 1. but starting L.
3. R, L, ∩→ sway R, ∩← sway L.
4. let go of hands & turn clockwise 360° in place in 4 steps starting R – right arm lifts smoothly up and out in a wide arc reaching neck or chin height by the end of the second bar then coming down to V by the end of bar 4, left arm extends outward similarly and follows same path but starts later at end of bar 1. The effect is of the arms tracing a circle in the air, but with its axis tilted from the horizontal. Describing the sphere of the earth turning.
5. ∩↑ rejoining hands in V 4 steps in starting R – arms gradually up high but slightly bent.
6. ∩↓ R inclining head fwd a little & leaving L in place fwd of R still on the ground or slightly raised & bringing arms down to V and slightly backwards, ∩↑ repl. L arms fwd to V, ∩↓ R, L.
7. repeat 4 – but you are starting from a little in towards centre so you will need to come back out to l.o.d as you turn.

    Rejoin hands V and pause in place for 2 bars.

Points to note; how wide you can make the arm movement on the turn will depend on the people next to you in the circle; you may need to raise the arms at steeper angle to avoid hitting your neighbour. After the first turn, try to rejoin hands and begin their forward movement immediately so the arms do not stop moving.

Paul Boizot revised 30.11.11