Ijswals
(The Netherlands)

Ijswals was written down by Mrs. A. Sanson-Catz in 1925 as one of the traditional dances of the Netherlands. The music originally was called “Oude Passepie” and was performed in the theater in Amsterdam from 1696 to 1716. The dance reflects the skating of couples on ice.

This dance was originally presented at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1984 by Jaap Leegwater. In 1996, Tineke Van Geel also presented the dance to a different version of the music that has a much longer introduction.

Pronunciation: ighs-vahls
Translation: Ice Waltz.

Music: 3/8 meter
RECORD: Nevofoon 12162 side B, band 7.
CASSETTE: Van Geel – Stockton 1996; Special 2012 Camp CD, Track 2-

Formation: Cpls in a circle facing CCW. M is behind the W and slightly to the L. W’s R hand in M’s R hand, her L hand in his L hand, hands held fwd at shldr level.

Steps & Styling: Waltz and Kruispas (KRIES-pahs)

Kruispas: (this step suggests a skating movement) [Plural=Kruispassen]
1 Step R in front of L, body turned slightly L (ct 1); two steps in place on ball of ft (L-R), body turning slightly to the R (cts 2, 3).
2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and body work for second kruispas. This step can be done fwd and bkwd. Going bkwd, one crosses R and L ft behind the other leg.

Meas 3/8 meter

INTRODUCTION. No action. Length of the introduction varies among the various recordings of the music.

I. FIGURE I

1-4 Four Kruispassen fwd CCW, both starting with R.
5-7 Three Kruispassen bkwd, both starting with R.
8 M turns W to her L with one waltz step (beg L) under his R arm without releasing hands, while M does waltz step in place (beg L) until ptrs face each other (M with back to ctr, W facing ctr). M frees L ft in anticipation of the next meas.
9-12 Holding hands with arms crossed between them, four Kruispassen twd ctr of circle, M starting with L ft behind moving bkwd, W with R ft in front moving fwd.
16 One waltz step back to orig pos. M starts with R, W with L. (M’s last step is a touch so that his R ft is free.)

II. FIGURE II

1-8 Eight Kruispassen fwd CCW, both starting with R.
9 One Kruispas diag twd ctr, both starting with R.
10 One Kruispas diag away from ctr, both starting with L.
Ijswals — continued

11-12 With two waltz steps, M leads W in a turn R as a cpl, ending back in place facing CCW.

13-14 Repeat meas 9-10.

15-16 With two waltz steps, M backs up while leading w in a turn L as a cpl, ending back in place facing CCW.

III. FIGURE III

1-4 Separate and waltz a full circle away from each other using four waltz steps, M to L starting with L, W to R, starting with R, to end face to face and touch each other’s palms held up and across.

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 in reverse; M circles CW to R beg with R, W circles CCW to L with L.

9 Facing CCW and holding inside hands, one waltz step in place away from each other, M to L beg with L, W to R beg with R.

10 Repeat meas 9 with opp ftwk and direction.

11-12 Release hands and use two waltz steps while turning 3/4, M to L starting with L, W to R starting with R. End face to face to take ballroom pos.

12-16 Four waltz steps in ballroom pos rotating CW but moving CCW along the circle edge, M starting with L, W with R.

17-32 Repeat meas 1-16. If repeating the dance, M’s last step is a touch so that his R ft is free; otherwise finish the waltz step.

ALTERNATE ENDING

1-8 M stand behind W with hands on W’s shldrs. Do eight Kruispassen fwd moving CCW, starting with R.

9-16 All dancers place hands on the shldrs of the person ahead. Do eight Kruispassen fwd moving CCW, starting with R.

Sequence: (Fig I, Fig II, Fig III) twice, or Fig I, Fig II, Fig III, Fig I, Fig II, Fig III meas 1-16 ONLY, followed by the Alternate Ending (meas 17-32).

Presented by Bruce Mitchell