

Name of dance: A Yingle, A Meydele

Pronunciation: ah YING-geh-leh ah MEH-deh-leh

Place of origin: Chernovitz, Bukovina, or possibly Long Island, N.Y.

Source of music: no recording

Learned from: Bella Gottesman, 1993 ***

About the dance: This is a children's dance made up by Bella Gottesman, a well-known and wonderful singer/songwriter in the Yiddish tradition of her native Chernovitz (*Černauți, Czernowitz*). With its symmetry of boy's and girl's roles, it is a delightfully simple introduction to more complex Yiddish figure dances such as the *Sher*. The dance follows the Yiddish words of the song, which is:

A yingle, a meydele,	<i>A little boy, a little girl,</i>
A meydele, a yingle,	<i>A little girl, a little boy,</i>
Lomir beyde geyn tantsn.	<i>Let's both go dancing.</i>
A meydele, a yingle,	<i>A little girl, a little boy,</i>
A yingle, a meydele,	<i>A little boy, a little girl,</i>
Lomir beyde geyn tantsn.	<i>Let's both go dancing.</i>
Lomir ale tantsn geyn,	<i>Let's all go dancing,</i>
Ikh aleyn ken oykh tantsn.	<i>I can dance by myself too.</i>
Lomir ale tantsn geyn,	<i>Let's all go dancing,</i>
Ikh aleyn ken oykh tantsn.	<i>I can dance by myself too.</i>

Rhythm: 2/4

Formation: A boy and a girl each form a pair standing facing each other in a large circle of such couples. The boys face CCW in the large circle, the girls face CW.

<u>Direction</u>	<u>Measure</u>	<u>Step</u>
♂♀	1	(<i>"A yingle"</i>): The boy bows to the girl.
	2	(<i>"A meydele"</i>): The girl curtsies to the boy.
	3	(<i>"A meydele"</i>): The girl curtsies to the boy.
	4	(<i>"A yingle"</i>): The boy bows to the girl.
☀	5-8	(<i>"Lomir beyde..."</i>): The boy and girl take hands across and circle CW around their common center with 8 steps to return to their initial position.
♂♀	9	(<i>"A meydele"</i>): The girl curtsies to the boy.
	10	(<i>"A yingle"</i>): The boy bows to the girl.
	11	(<i>"A yingle"</i>): The boy bows to the girl.
	12	(<i>"A meydele"</i>): The girl curtsies to the boy.
☀	13-16	(<i>"Lomir beyde..."</i>): Repeat Measures 5-8. At the end of this figure, the pair releases their inside hand-hold (boy's L hand, girl's R hand) to open out and join hands with the large circle.

***The dance was choreographed by Bella Gottesman for her Workman Circle folkshul students/children in the Bronx in the 1960s (personal communication, Itzik Gottesman to Helen Winkler).

→ 17-20 (“*Lomir ale...*”): Holding hands in the large circle and
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A Yingele, A Meydele (continued):

<u>Direction</u>	<u>Measure</u>	<u>Step</u>
☀	21-24	moving CCW in it, everyone continues walking 8 steps. (“ <i>Ikh aley...</i> ”): Everyone releases hands and turns by themselves CCW in place with 8 small steps, holding their hands out to the sides.
	25-32	Repeat Measures 17-24.
		From here, the dance can start again from the beginning.

dance notes by Erik Bendix