

# SPJST October Vestnik Project - Polka Music

This project earns a maximum 40 points in the SPJST Youth Clubs Merit Points System. Mail completed project no later than November 10, 2008 to:  
SPJST Youth Program c/o SPJST Home Office • P.O. Box 100 • Temple, Texas 76503

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge \_\_\_\_\_

## Polka Music Lives On!

The polka originated as a Czech peasant dance. Historic folklore has it that a peasant girl named Anna Slezak invented the steps one day for her own amusement. The word “polka” is derived from the Czech phrase for “half-step,” which refers to the dance pattern of lightly stepping from one foot to the other.

The polka dance was first introduced to Prague ballrooms in 1835, and to Paris ballrooms in 1840. French dancers took to polka immediately, and it soon grew wildly popular. Polka eventually reached England and the United States by the late 1840s. Today, polka is one of the few dances that originated during the nineteenth century that is still popular worldwide.

A standard Texas polka band might include trumpet, clarinet, saxophone, accordion and drums. In Texas, the two other kinds of mainstream polka are Czech and German. Newer polka styling such as Texas Polka and even punk polka further blend other instruments and musical styles with classic polkas.

The polka is a fast dance. The basic polka step is a continuous series of “triple steps.” Since describing the steps might not have painted the perfect picture of how to do the polka, the best thing to do is to attend a polka dance and learn by doing!

The Texas Polka Music Museum (TPMM) was established in 2004 and is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of the polka and waltz music brought to Texas by the Czech, German and Polish immigrants from Europe. One of the goals of the TPMM is to promote Texas polka music by educating the public about the contributions of past and present day Texas polka bands, musicians and disc jockeys and the joy and pleasure that they have given to those who love to listen and dance to Texas polka music.

## Polka Music Word Find

A D H U U D N T J F T Y U I G  
T N R C D V E O E Z E G M V E  
R Q N U E P M K I Q N M Z R R  
I N K A M Z A G P D I A A C M  
P B W U S B C X J G R M E P A  
L Y R G O L S R R C A O R U N  
E T M H L U E A W J L A C X I  
S A K L O P N Z Y P C J K C S  
T Q C C E T L E A P Z N P H A  
E X U N S T X X W K U O W I X  
P P R A G U E T M P L X O Z E  
E N O H P O X A S I C J P V T  
X B H U H Q A H S F P H Y L K  
J I R V A D K H T L L V P M S  
C M Y E H M S E Y G P Y Q F T

Accordion    Clarinet    Czech    Drums    German  
Immigrants    Polish    Polka    Prague    Punk  
Saxophone    Texas    Triple Step    Trumpet  
Anna Slezak

**After reading the polka history, find the words in the polka music puzzle above.**