

# Lark in Prismacolor

Some of you have seen the golden painting of a folk dance. It's "Michel's Mazurka," painted by Lark Camp instructor Vickie Yancy. See the blonde accordéon player in the foreground? That's Vickie. Her beautiful work depicts a French folk dance at Lark Camp in 1982, with musicians in the outer circle playing a mazurka waltz for the dancers within.

Historically, such dances were accompanied by bagpipe, hurdy gurdy, and fiddle, but in today's French country dance music ensembles, you're likely to hear accordéon diatonique the more modern instrument that Vickie teaches at Lark. On another historical note, Vickie tells us that in bourée (the national dance of French folk culture), the characteristic sound of dancers' wooden shoes (sabots) striking the planks of the dance hall floor would create an audible symbiosis between dancers and musicians.

Vickie created "Michel's Mazurka" to honor her French mentor, Michel Raous, who introduced her to the mazurka waltz. You can spot him in the picture, dancing with a woman in red but he was only there in spirit, and Vickie wasn't actually part of this scene of warmth and camaraderie. Pregnant with her daughter, she had just left the dance with the intention of heading for bed, when the music began. She looked back into the hall, prepared to remind her students of the mazurka waltz formation and steps she had taught them earlier in the day. Instead, she stood in awe, watching the results of her afternoon's work as teacher: there were her students, following in the footsteps of dancers from earlier generations, savoring the dance and ready to pass it on to future generations of dancers. Inspired by a dream she had about the scene a few nights later, Vickie used Prismacolor pencil to create the original 21" by 30" painting, which still hangs in her home.