



On behalf of the sponsoring Hungarian Veterans' Association and the Ball Committee we welcome every returning young lady to the

HUNGARIA GALA BALL

This short synopsis should help the young lady who is going to be dancing the Palotás court dance. The traditional diszmagyar costume is not easily accessible in Canada. In Hungary there are stores which specialize in its design and making. The Ball Committee offers a few options for the dancers. Please read and select the one that will be best for you.

For additional information and ideas please approach one of the available Committee Members. They are available on Sundays during the dance practices or through the contact information from the website www.hungariaball.com

All dancers should have registered and paid their dancer fees by the due date. Please review the Code of Conduct, which is also available on the website

The DÍSZMAGYAR costume for the Palotás dance

You have a few choices:

- Rent one from the Ball Committee. There is limited number of dresses available in colour and size. You may not necessarily receive your preference.
- Borrow or rent one from a previous dancer you know.
- Have one sewn.
- Purchase one from a previous dancer.

IF you are renting one from the Ball Committee:

- There is a small rental & a refundable deposit fee. Most of these dresses are old or have been hand decorated. Their maintenance and dry cleaning is expensive.
- Speak with the Costume Coordinator at your earliest convenience to request a dress and to be fitted.

- You may take the dress with you after the dress rehearsal and return it immediately after dancing at the Ball.
- It has to be correctly hung on the hangers and any damage needs to be shown to the Costume Coordinator.
- If the skirt does not have an underskirt, you will need to rent one. These can be rented from bridal or costume shops.
- Each costume is sewn differently but you should have the following items. A skirt with or without an underskirt, a blouse and a vest. An apron and a pártá - which is the head piece.

Important Note

As you will be changing out of the diszmagyar we require that you follow the dress code for the Ball. That is, **you must wear a full length evening gown for the rest of the evening.** No exceptions will be allowed.

How is a diszmagyar worn?

All the pieces need to fit you properly; including the skirt; which has to be floor length on you.

We will instruct you on how put on and secure your garments. You must follow instructions as we do not want you to have an item fall off while dancing. We have some very inappropriate looking photos of young ladies who choose not to adhere to guidelines. We know why we are asking of certain things to be done in a specific way.

Hair and Make up:

- Hair is in a complementary style for you but we request that it be off the face and the shoulders. Book your hair appointment early in the day of the Ball, by around 10 AM the very latest! Make appointment ASAP.
- The Pártá needs to be securely pinned in place.
- The ribbons on the pártá, if it has one, needs to be pressed and tied and secured so that it looks like a professional bow. It may need to be pinned as well. You will need assistance with this.
- Make up is to be polished and suitable for the elegant evening and the traditional garment you are wearing. Keep your lipstick or gloss near by.
- DO NOT use self tanning creams as you will look yellow on the photos. Tanning in any form is generally not a good idea for this event.
- Nails should be manicured with either a pale or natural polish.
- Minimal jewelry to compliment the dress.

Gloves

- Needs to be white. Any other color needs approval.
- As the vest or the blouse has a $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeve, the gloves should only reach up to your elbows.
- Wear the gloves all evening except during the meal.

- Do not wear jewelry over your gloves.

Shoes

- Clean and polished character shoes are acceptable as long as they coordinate with the color of the skirt. Silver or gold colored shoes are acceptable.
- If you have a pair of black, soft dance boots, you may wear them with approval of the instructor.
- NO sandals and “high” heels.

Undergarments

- Wear light coloured under garments & a comfortable suitable bra. Full length pantyhose are requested. You MUST wear a full back & front underwear!
- An underskirt is necessary if the skirt does not have one.

Personal grooming:

- Shower and use deodorant. Minimize perfumes as many people are allergic to these. We do not wish to “smell” you from afar!
- Bring extra undergarments, especially if it is around your menstrual cycle. Come prepared!
- Bring deodorant & tooth brush/paste with you as you’ll want to freshen up before the Reception.

There may be others from whom you can rent or borrow a diszmagyar. Our guidelines still need to be followed. We would be happy to assist as needed.

TO MAKE YOUR OWN DISZMAGYAR

Should you wish to have one sewn we strongly encourage the following guidelines to make the dress as authentic as possible:

- Start shopping for material immediately. Craft stores and ethnic stores are very good resources.
- Find a pattern to follow and give to the seamstress
- Find a good seamstress.

Next...

- Pick any COLOUR as long as it’s a gem colour. That could be: burgundy, garnet, sapphire blue, navy, emerald green, forest green, dark pink, dark red, brown tones, gold (never yellow), silver, or white. Colors need to be strong and rich.
- Both the vest and the skirt should be the same colour but it can be of different hue. The vest can be velvet or the same material as the skirt.
- It is not unusual to have the skirt in white, cream, taupe or lighter than the vest.
- The SKIRT is fashioned in the 18th century style, i.e. very full; held out by many layered petticoat, which is the underskirt.

- The material should be similar to brocade, velvet or raw silk; a heavier type of material. The skirt's bottom may also be decorated with cording.
- The VEST is the fancy part. It has cording in the traditional Hungarian pattern. It can be gold, silver, white or black to complement the vest colour. The vest may be laced up in the front or closed with snaps.
 - The vest back should be cut in three pieces and the front in two or four. This is to allow for the proper cording pattern. The vest is form fitting and very flattering for the waist line!
- The adornments are glass gems and pearl combination. Never use sequins! Evening style buttons make wonderful decorations.
- The PÀRTA, or the head piece, is a traditional 18th century head adornment for ladies of the court. It is also the colour of the dress with the Hungarian cording pattern repeated. Gems are used to decorate it. The shape can be like a tiara or like a "pill hat" style but with an open top. For unwed ladies it is tied with a long ribbon that cascades down the back. Secure fitting is a must for dancing.
- It is traditional to have a lace APRON over the skirt and the blouse is usually lace with a very "puffy" $\frac{3}{4}$ length SLEEVE.

Ladylike behaviour is expected at all times:

- Practice good table manners. Read the Etiquette section on the website.
- Have linen handkerchief or a few tissues in your purse to dab off perspiration
- Be polite and talk to everyone at your table
- When offered, take the gentleman's right forearm to walk with him
- Wait for your chair to be pulled out for you
- Do not become intoxicated!
- Be punctual
- Do not chew gum. Use breath mint instead.
- Never take your shoes off, bring another pair for comfort.

It is customary for dance couples attending a formal evening to purchase either a corsage, for a young lady, or a boutonnière for the gentlemen. If you receive a corsage from someone, we ask that you keep it and wear it with your evening gown NOT the diszmagyar. Please do not purchase a boutonnière for your escort as most of them will have one from being an escort to a debutante young lady.

You and the rest of your friends may decide to give a personalized Thank You note to each of your escorts, expressing your appreciation for their gentlemanly behavior, or some other endearing quality shown over the last few months.

A simple note may be:

Dear Patrick,

I really enjoyed getting to know you over the last few months. You are a wonderful dancer!

I am looking forward to the Ball and I'm sure we will have a great time!

Your Friend,

Bea

Enjoy yourself and remain safe with your friends!

