

Beale Street Blues

U.S.A.

This sequence is a combination of two short dances done in Skater's position. The music is in an unusual composition by W.C. Handy that combines a bluesy fox-trot with a 12 bar tango. The original recording, performed on clarinet b Boyd Senter and backed up by guitar and piano, was discovered in the Stockton archives by Bev Wilder.

This dance was presented by Richard Powers at the 1990 Folk Dance Camp, Stockton, CA.

MUSIC: Special Richard Powers tape - Stockton 1990

FORMATION: Cpls face LOD (CCW), W to R of M with MR arm around W waist. Joined L hands extended diag fwd L, joined R hands held at WR waist.

METER: PATTERN

Meas.

INTRODUCTION: 2 meas

PART I: CASTLE SCHOTTISCHE

Do the Castle Scottische, description following, with these exceptions:

At the very end of the sequence, walk around your ptr (taking L hands) with 4 steps instead of 3 steps. This will allow the L ft to be free for the following tango.

PART II: SKATER'S TANGO (1914)

After doing 1 Castle Schottische sequence, do 1 tango sequence, in skaters pos (see diagram).

- 1-2 Move fwd in LOD - step L,R,L,R (slow - 1 steps per 2 cts.)
- 3 Step L fwd with bent knee (corte) (cts 1-2, S);
step R bkwd (recover) (cts 3, Q); close L to R (ct 4, Q).
- 4 Step R fwd pivoting ½ to R (W now on MR side) -
change to opp hand pos, end facing LOD (cts 1-2, S);
step L bkwd (cts 3-4, S).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk in RLOD,
except hold with wt on R ft on cts 3-4, meas 4.
- 9 Facing LOD - step L diag R fwd (cts 1-2, S);
Step R across L (ct 3, Q); step L to L bkwd (ct 4, Q).



- 10 Step R bkwd (ct 1-2, S); step L diag R fwd (ct 3, Q); close R to L (ct 4, Q).
- 11 Step L diag R fwd (cts 1-2, S); step R across L (ct 3, Q); step L diag L bkwd (ct 4, Q).
- 12 Step R bkwd (cts 1-2, S); close L to R (cts 3-4), S).

Continue to alternate the Castle Schottische with the Skater's Tango.

Not all ragtime era dances were done with wild abandon. For contrast from trots and two-steps, this can be done with a melancholy sweetness, especially during the tango.

Dance notes corrected from Stockton errata and Fed. Video by dd, 1990

Presented by Beverly Barr
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