

# THE SWEDISH DANCE, 1818

Invented by G. M. S. Chivers, and described in his *The Dancers' Guide*, 1821

It was listed in an ad by Chivers in the *Morning Post*, November 13, 1818.

This description is from J. S. Pollock's *Companion to La Terpsichore Moderne*, c.1830

The description is on page 4.

Reconstruction by Richard Powers

Formation: Longways set comprised of a gent with two ladies, one at each side. Or a lady and 2 gents. Pollock wrote, "This dance will be found particularly useful where there happens to be a large majority of either ladies or gentlemen.

<b>O</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>O</b>
O	X	O
O	X	O
O	X	O
O	X	O

Is this a duple or triple progression? Pollock wrote, "the dance proceeds in the same way as the Mescolanzes," which was clearly described as duple minor. Also, duple minor sets were newer at this time, and Pollock's frontispiece emphasized the modernity of his dances.

In the Mescolanzes, the top line dances to the bottom of the set, waits out one, dances to the top, waits out one, then the dance is concluded when they reach the bottom of the set the second time. Pollock's illustration of a set of five lines (above) doesn't limit the set to this number, of course, but it's a good length for this once-and-a-half progression, 15 times through the music.

## Swedish Dance No. 1

- A) Taking hands 6, circle to the left [4 bars]; Circle right. [4]
- B) 2 top ladies and opposite gent R-hand moulinet [4]; Back by the L hands. [4]
- C) The other three do the same. [8]
- D) Taking hands-3, all advance and retire [4]; Drop hands, and individually travel forward right diagonal [2] and left diagonal [2], to pass vis-a-vis and progress one place.\*

\* Note: Pollock doesn't specify how to advance, but in describing his Swedish Dance, Chivers wrote "The two lines exchange places, by passing to the right of each other," an atypical progression.

### Swedish Dance No. 2

- A) Taking hands-3, all advance and retire [4]; Repeat. [4] \*\*
- B) 2 top ladies and opposite gent circle to the left [4]; Circle right. [4]
- C) The other three do the same. [8]
- D) Taking hands-3, all advance and retire [4]; Drop hands, and individually travel forward right diagonal [2] and left diagonal [2], to pass vis-a-vis and progress one place.

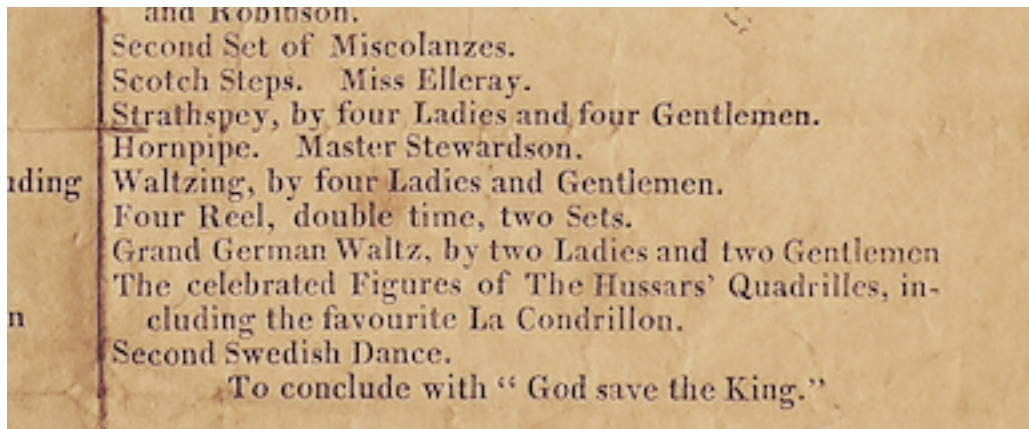
\*\* Pollock only says advance and retire, but there is music for doing it twice. You may, instead, reconstruct a fancier pattern of steps, to advance in 4 bars and retire in 4 bars.

### Swedish Dance No. 3

- A) Taking hands 6, circle to the left [4]; Circle right. [4]
- B) The top gent swings his right-diagonal vis-a-vis by the R hand [4]; He swings his left-diagonal vis-a-vis by the L hand [4];
- C) The other gent does the same. [8]
- D) Taking hands-3, all advance and retire [4]; Drop hands, and individually travel forward right diagonal [2] and left diagonal [2], to pass vis-a-vis and progress one place.



As a measure of its popularity, here is the Swedish Dance, danced a second time, as the concluding dance at Mr. Garnett's Ball, in Bowness, May 23, 1828.



From the collection of Richard Powers

Thanks to Paul Cooper for his contributions to this reconstruction.

13 COMPANION to LA TERPSICHORE

SWEDISH DANCE.

—oo—

o	x	o
o	x	o
o	x	o
o	x	o
o	x	o

*This dance will be found particularly useful, where there happens to be a large majority of either ladies or gentlemen. The party being placed as above, in lines of three, a gent. and two ladies, or a lady and two gents. the dance proceeds in the same way as the Mescalintzes, except that no change of places is to be made either at the top or bottom of the same.*

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SWEDISH DANCE. 11

FIGURES FOR THE  
SWEDISH DANCE.

—oo—

NO. 1. (4 parts.)

Hands six round and back again—the two top ladies and opposite gent. hands across and back again—the other three the same—advance and retire all six, and each cross over to the opposite person's place, which brings the first line into the place of the second, ready to repeat the same figure with the third line.

NO. 2. (4 parts.)

All six advance and retire—the two top ladies and opposite gent. hands three round and back again to places—the other three the same—advance and retire all six, and each cross to the opposite person's place.

NO. 3. (4 parts.)

Hands six round and back again—the top gent. swing the lady opposite on the right with his right hand, then the lady opposite on his left with his left hand—the other gent. performs the same figure with the top ladies—advance retire all six, and each cross the opposite person's place.