

AUPRES DE MA BLONDE

(My Favorite Blonde) - French-Canadian

Folkraft Record F -- 1091 A

Although this song is very French in character, the dance itself is considered French-Canadian. In style it is related to dances seen in France, particularly to the Ronde Lorraine.

Form a circle with as many couples as desired, hands joined. Figures change after every 8th count.

8 skips to left.

8 skips to right.

With 8 steps girls walk toward center joining hands and forming an inner circle; boys join hands in outer circle.

Boy's circle moves right with 8 steps, girls move left.

8 skips in reverse directions.

Without releasing hands girls move backward and outward raising their joined hands as boys (with hands released) move toward center of circle under the girls' arches. Once inside they turn to face girls and join hands, retaining separate circles.

Each circle moves to its own right with 8 skips.

Reverse directions.

In eight steps everyone releases hands, boys coming between their own partner and next girl. All join hands. All boys with backs to center of circle.

8 skips clockwise.

8 skips counter-clockwise.

Release hands and to 8 counts boys only turn to face center of circle joining hands to form arches. Girls mark time in place.

Girls enter center of circle, face to turn partner and curtsy extending left foot front, bending right knee and with both hands spread skirt 8 counts.

During the next 16 counts girls weave in and out, leaving circle on the left side of partner, and entering in from behind next boy, etc. At the end of the 16 counts girls face new partners.

Boys stamp right feet, girls left on first count, pause on second, bow-curtsy during the next two counts and with four steps turn alone describing a small circle in place.

Repeat the above twice more.

Join both hands with partners and skip in place with 8 skips turning in a clockwise direction.

With eight skips turn in a reverse direction.

Repeat dance with the new partners.