

LA BRANDE

(Berry, France)

La Brande is a circle dance from Berry, France. Learned in France, summer 1982.

MUSIC: Laguna Festival Tape: "La Brande"

FORMATION: Dancers in a single circle, facing LOD (CCW). Arms are relaxed at sides.

STEPS: Traveling Pas de Bourrée: Step fwd on L (ct 1); step on R slightly fwd (ct &); step on L slightly fwd (ct 2). Step alternates.

Pas de Bourrée Epaulé - 4 meas to complete:

Meas 1: Facing LOD with L shldr twd ctr, take a large step twd ctr on L, turning 1/2 turn CCW to end facing RLOD with R shldr twd ctr (ct 1); step on R beside L (ct &) step on L beside R (ct 2).

Variation: Dance ct 1 as described above (ct 1); bring R ft beside L, ankles almost touching and R ft parallel to floor but bearing no wt (ct &); hold (ct 2).

Meas 2: Decalagé: Step on R beside L, bending R knee more than usual and starting to reach to L side with L (ct 1); step sdwd L on L (ct &); step on R beside L (ct 2).

Meas 3: Take a large step away from ctr on L, turning 1/2 turn CW to end facing LOD with L shldr twd ctr (ct 1); step on R beside L (ct &); step on L beside R (ct 2)

Variation: Dance ct 1 as described above (ct 1); bring R ft beside L, ankles almost touching and R ft parallel to floor but bearing no wt (ct &); hold (ct 2).

Meas 4: Repeat meas 2 (Decalagé).

STYLE: Styling is smooth and flat, wit steps taken on the full ft. Knees are slghtly bent throughout.

METER: 2/4

PATTERN

Meas

1-8 INTRODUCTION

PART A - Bourrée Epaulé

1-16 Beg with L ft, dance 4 Pas de Bourrée Epaulé.

PART B -Traveling

1 Beg with L ft, dance 1 Traveling Pas de Bourrée twd ctr, making 1/2 turn CCW on ct. 1.

2 Continuing the CCW turn, dance 1 Traveling Pas de Bourrée beginning with R ft and travel out to original circle. End facing LOD having completed 1 full CCW loop during meas 1-2.

3-4 Travel in LOD with 2 Traveling Pas de Bourrée steps, beginning with L ft.

5-16 Repeat meas 1-4, PART B, three more times.

Repeat dance from beginning.

Presented by Marilyn Smith at the Laguna Folkdancers Festival 1998