

Le Maître de Maison

(France)

Le Maître de Maison (luh MEH-truh duh may-ZOHN) is a branle from Alsace, France. Marilyn Wathen learned it there in the summer of 1982. She presented it at the 1986 Statewide Institute at Santa Rosa, California and at the 1987 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

CASSETTE: ON Y VA Side B/3

2/4 meter

FORMATION: Open circle of dancers, leader at L end. Hands joined in "V" pos.

STEPS and STYLING: Branle dances were originally danced to singing. The words to Le Maître de Maison are given at the end of this dance description in hopes that the dancers will sing along with the recording.

Traditionally, branle dances progress to the L (CW). Thus, during meas 1-8, steps taken to the L side should be larger than those taken to the R side.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

- 2 meas INTRODUCTION No action except on the last "&" ct move the joined hands a little bkwd. During meas 1-12 the joined hands swing slightly fwd on each ct 1 and slightly bkwd on each ct-2. The swinging motion is relaxed and not forced.
- 1-2 Step on L to L side (ct 1); step on R beside L (ct 2); step on L to L side (meas 2, ct 1); close R to L, no wt (ct 2).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction (take smaller steps).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.
- 9 Almost in place, step on L ft (ct 1); swing R leg in front of L (ct 2). On the swing, the R knee is relaxed and the swing is low.
- 10 Repeat meas 9 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 11-12 Repeat meas 9-10.
- 13-14 Releasing hands, make a full turn CCW, stepping L,R,L (cts 1,2; meas 14, ct 1); step on R beside L (ct 2); rejoining hands, raise both heels off the floor (ct &).
- 15 Lower heels to the floor (ct 1); hold (ct 2); taking wt on R, start joined hands moving a little bkwd (ct &).

DANCE SEQUENCE: Dance the pattern as written until music ends. (Song words on back of description)

SONG WORDS FOR LE MAÎTRE DE MAISON

1. Où reste donc le maître de la maison (bis)
Il descend la rue
Oublie sa charrue
Bien qu'il serait temps
D'labourer les champs.
2. Où est donc la maîtresse de la maison (bis)
Elle fait la cuisine
Sans oeufs, sans farine
Vend la poule au pot
Et gard'le magot
3. Où reste donc le fils de cette maison (bis)
C'est un petit ange
Que chasse les mésanges
Avec son pipeau
Il crie comme un crapaud.
4. Où reste donc la fille de la maison (bis)
Elle est à la messe
Et reçoit caresses
D'un our deux amants
D'tout un régiment.
5. Où est donc la servante de la maison (bis)
En battant la chatte
Avec sa baratte
Elle répand la creme partout
Et le maître l'aime.