

MÄRTGASSLER

(Switzerland)

Märtgassler, pronounced Mehrt'-gahss-ler, meaning a small market street, is an elaborate city dance. It was taught by Rosemarie Raths at the 1964 Folk Dance Camp at the University of the Pacific, Stockton, California.

MUSIC: Record: EP 17112 "Amadeo"

FORMATION: Cpls in a circle, W to MR, hands joined low. With 8 cpls you will progress and return to ptr. Otherwise the dance becomes a mixer.

STEPS AND STYLING: MAZURKA: Step L fwd with accent, bending body slightly fwd (ct 1); step R fwd, straightening body (ct 2); with slight hop on R, cross L ft over R instep (ct 3). Keep sole of crossing ft parallel to floor. This step may also begin with R.

SIDE MAZURKA: Step L swd to L with accent, bending body slightly to L (ct 1); step R beside L, straightening body (ct 2); take a slight hop on R and lift L ft close to R ankle (ct 3), keeping sole of L parallel to floor. Keep both ft at right angles to direction of travel. This step may also begin with R twd R.

BALANCE STEP: Step L in direction indicated (ct 1), step R beside L (ct 2), step L beside R (ct 3). Keep knees flexible, giving a little up and down movement to the action. The balance may also begin with R.

RUNNING WALTZ: Three small running steps to a meas (one for each ct) with accent on ct 1.

Waltz*, Step-swing*, Slide*

Whenever free hands are on hips, they are with fingers fwd.

*Steps described in Volumes of Folk Dances from Near and Far published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., 1095 Market Street, San Francisco.

MUSIC 3/4

PATTERN

Measures:

No Introduction.

A I. CIRCLE L AND R

1-2 Starting L, circle fwd to L (RLOD) with 2 mazurka steps. Accent first cts with stamp L, bending body slightly fwd. Cross L over R on ct 3.

3-4 Continue RLOD with 2 running waltz steps.

5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4.

9 Still facing RLOD and starting L, dance one running waltz bwd LOD, turning CW to face LOD on ct 3.