

Danish Minuet

(Denmark)

The Danish Minuet, or Menuetten, is included in this collection both for its charm and simplicity and also as an illustration of the universality of traditional dance forms common to many countries. Because so many of the Scandinavian dances are vigorous in nature, performed briskly to music in duple meter and in major mode, many individuals are unaware of the fact that the folk dances of these particular countries include a large number characterized by real lyrical beauty and others characterized by quiet dignity.

The Danish Minuet is illustrative of the latter group. It shares certain characteristics of the minuet form common to many countries in that it is danced in triple meter, is relatively slow in tempo, and possesses a quality of restraint or dignity in its execution. Although it is quite different from the minuets with which our public schools in this country tend to celebrate George Washington's birthday each year, it is suggestive of the same dignity of spirit.

In a sense, the Danish Minuet is a good "mixer" in that it involves a change of partners during which individual dancers may become better acquainted.

Formation: Any number of couples in a single circle, Man on L of Partner, all facing toward center of circle with hands joined at shoulder level, elbows bent.

Part I

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|-----|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | Moving clockwise around the circle, step R across and in back of L, at same time bending L knee. |
| | 2 | Swing L leg in a semicircle forward and to the L, knee fairly straight. |
| | 3 | Step on L to side of R. |
| 2-4 | | Repeat 3 times except that, instead of stepping on L (ct 3, Meas 4) the circling of the L leg is sustained on ct 3 to a position off floor but in back of R. |

Part II

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|-------|---|---|
| A | | |
| 9 | 1 | Partners facing in a single circle (M counterclockwise, W CW) R hands joined at shoulder level, elbows bent, with L hands on hips, Step forward R, toward each other. |
| | 2 | Step L beside R, rising on balls of both feet. |
| | 3 | Lower heels to floor. |
| 10 | 1 | Keeping R hands joined and L hands on hips, partners step backward L, away from each other. |
| | 2 | Step R beside L rising on balls of both feet |
| | 3 | Lower heels to floor |
| 11-12 | | Repeat meas. 9-10 |
| B | | |
| 13-16 | | Beginning R and moving forward in a R and L chain (M progressing CCW, W CW in a large circle) dancers pass partners by R hands, second dancer met by L hands, third dancer met R hands, and |

finish in a single circle, all facing in, each W on the R of the fourth M met in the chain with 4 waltz steps. Count is 1,2,3,etc.

Each W is now on the R of th fourth M from her original position in the single circle (counting her partner as the first); this M becomes her partner for the repetition of the Minuet when partners face for the balance steps analyzed in Meas. 9-12 of A of Figure II.

Repeat entire dance as many times as desired.