

# Neopolitan Tarantella

(Italy)

The dance was arranged from authentic Italian steps by Madelynne Greene. (The pattern was authenticated by creator, October 1947.)

Pronunciation:

Music: Columbia 14316F; Oliver 201 B (4-meas intro) 6/8 meter

Formation: Cpls in circle, W to M R, facing LOD (CCW) in open pos. ML fist on hip, W carries tambourine in R hand throughout dance.

Steps and Styling: Step-Swing\*, Run\*, Walk\*, Two-Step\*, Buzz turn\*, Step-Hop\*, Three-Step turn\*. The steps are light. The dance should be done in a flirtatious manner, always looking at and flirting with ptr.

## Meas

## Pattern

- I. STEP-SWING AND RUN (Outside)
- A 1-2 Begin ML - WR. Dance 2 Step-hops fwd in LOD (CCW). W hold tambouring high and slightly fwd.
- 3-4 Bend slightly fwd from waist and continue fwd with 4 running steps, coming to an upright pos on the 4th step.
- Tambourine action: W shake tambourine continuously; bring R arm bkwd, fwd in a circular motion, sweeping around and up to orig pos. ML fist on hip.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three times; no wt on last step.
- II. EXCHANGE PLACES AND STEP-SWING (Inside)
- B 1-2 Begin MR, WL, exchange places with 3 fast walking steps. Pass L shldrs, W crossing in front of M. Point free ft twd ptr, lean slightly away and look over shldr twd ptr. M clap hands out to R side. W swing tambourine down and across over to L side in a circular movement, clapping it on last beat.
- 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2, reversing ftwk and hand movement to return to orig place. Pass R shldrs, W in front of M.
- 5-8 Face ptr. Begin MR, WL, dance 4 Step-Swings in place. W hold hands above head and shake tambourine; M hold hands above head and snap fingers.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.
- III. CIRCLE PARTNER; BUZZ STEP TURN
- C 1-6 R shldrs adjacent, R arm curved in front of chest, L arm extended and curved upward. Beg either ML and WR or both beg R, dance 6 Two-steps once around in a CW circle.
- 7-8 With 2 Two-steps, move away from ptr to end in double circle, M back to ctr, W facing ctr (if W beg meas 1-6 on L, she doesn't take wt on the last step).
- 9-12 Both beg R, with 8 Buzz steps, individually turn R (CW) in place. R arm arched high above head, L extended downward (trailing). W shake tambourine continuously.
- 13-20 Repeat meas 1-8, both beg L, circle with L shldrs adjacent, hand movement reversed.

## Neopolitan Tarantella—continued

21-24 Repeat meas 9-12 with opp ftwk, hand movement, and direction (individual buzz turn CCW).

IV. FORWARD AND BACK, CLAP AND CIRCLE

D 1-2 Facing ptr, beg ML, WR, move twd ptr with 3 fast walking steps, close free ft on meas 2, ct 2, no wt. Start Fig with hands down at sides, bring them fwd and up overhead,; W strike tambourine, M clap hands on meas 2, ct 2.

3-4 Remain facing ptr, beg MR, WL, move bkwd to place with 4 walking steps. Bring hands fwd, down, and behind back; M clap, W strike tambourine.

5-8 M beg L, with 4 Two-steps, turn CCW once in place, watching ptr circling him.

W beg L, with 3 Two-steps and 2 walking steps (R, L) circle once CCW around M, L arm curved in front of chest, R extended downward (trailing). Shake tambourine.

9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 to finish in a double circle, ptrs facing, M back to ctr.

V. STEP-SWING; TURNING ON STEP-HOPS

A 1-4 **Reg** ML, WR, dance 4 step-swings in place. M snap fingers above head; W strike tambourine 8 times.

5-8 M place both hands on W waist. W place L hand on M shldr, R held high above head. With 4 step-hops, move LOD (CCW), turning twice CW (2 step-hops to complete 1 turn).

9-16 Repeat meas 1-8. Finish in a double circle facing LOD (CCW) inside hands joined.

VI. LASSO STEP

B 1-4 Beg ML, WR, M dance 4 Two-steps in place while he leads W in front of him and around in CCW circle with 4 two-steps. ML fist on hip, WR arm swings gracefully out and in.

5-6 Inside hands still joined, dance one Two-step away from ptr (slightly back to back) and one Two-step twd ptr (face to face).

7-8 Release hands. Ptrs move in LOD (CCW) with three-step turn and close as M turns L, WR. M clap hands, W strike tambourine on first step on turn.

9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 to finish in open pos facing LOD (CCW).

VII. RUNNING TWO-STEP; SEPARATE

C 1-8 Beg ML, WR, dance 8 running Two-steps LOD (CCW), swaying slightly away and together. ML fist on hip, WR arm swings gracefully out and in.

9-12 With 4 Two-steps, ptrs separate and move away from each other (ML, WR) in a small individual circle. ML arm curved in front of chest, R extended downward (trailing), WR arm curved in front of chest, L trailing. Look at ptr over leading shldr.

13-24 Repeat meas 1-12, finish ptrs facing, M back to ctr of circle.

VIII. STEP-SWING; EXCHANGE PLACES

D 1-2 Beg ML, WR, dance 2 step-swings in place. Hands held high above head, W shaking tambourine.

3-4 Dance a three-step turn and close, moving LOD (CCW), M turn L, WR. Arms drop on turn, M clap hands on meas 4, ct 2; W strike tambourine.

5-6 Beg ML, WR, with 2 Two-steps exchange places with ptr, passing L shldrs, L arm curved in front of chest, R arm trailing.

7-8 In opp places, with 4 walking steps, M turn L (CCW) 1/2 turn; W turn R (CW) 1/2 turn to face ptr.

## Neapolitan Tarantella—continued

- 9-10 Repeat meas 1-2, two step-swings. (Ptrs facing, W inside, back to ctr.)  
 11-12 Repeat meas 3-4, moving RLOD (CW); with a three-step turn and close.  
 13-14 With 2 Two-steps move twd ptr.  
 15-16 With a three-step turn and close (ML, WR), move RLOD (CW). Finish in open pos, facing CW in circle, W on inside.

IX. STEP-SWING; RUN LOD

- A 1-12 Repeat Fig I, meas 1-12.  
 13-14 Repeat Fig I, meas 1-2, 2 step-swings.  
 15-16 M: With 4 steps L, R, L, R (no wt on last step), mark time in place.  
W: With 4 running steps, turn R, moving away from ptr. Finish in double circle, W inside with back to ctr.

X. BUMP STEP

- B 1-2 Both beg R, with 3 walking steps, move fwd twd ptr, turn slightly L, bump R hips. M clap hands, W strike tambourine away from ptr on meas 2, ct 2.  
 3-4 With 3 walking steps (LRL) move away from ptr, M twd outside of circle, W twd ctr of circle. Pivot R on L ft to face ptr.  
 5-8 Both beg R, dance 4 step-swings in place. Hold hands high above head, M snap fingers, W shake tambourine.  
 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

XI. BETTING

- 1-4 M: Turn to L with R hip twd ptr. W: Turn to R with L hip twd ptr. Pantomime betting.  
M: Place R hand on L hip. W: Place L hand on R hip. Match any number of fingers to ptr.  
 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, preparation and matching fingers.  
 9-10 With 4 walking steps, M and W exchange places, passing L shldr.  
 11-12 With 4 walking steps, M continue walking twd ctr of circle, turn R to face ptr while pantomimes losing bet by swinging arms dejectedly. W buzz step turn to R, R arm held high above head, shaking tambourine, L arm trailing (pantomimes joy of winning).  
 13-20 Repeat meas 1-8, preparation and matching fingers twice.  
 21-24 W pantomimes losing bet, stands dejectedly in place. M walks to W, places his arm around her shldr and consoles her. On meas 24, assume shldr-waist pos.

XII. STEP-HOPS WITH PTR

- D 1-12 Beg ML, WR, dance 12 step-hops turning CW, progressing in LOD (CCW). WR arm held high above head, shakes tambourine.  
 13-14 Releasing ptr, M kneel on L knee facing LOD (CCW). W beg R, turn R to outside of circle with a three-step turn and close (no wt). Strike tambourine on meas 14, ct 2).  
 15-16 M reach twd ptr with R hand. W beg L, turn L twd ptr with three-step turn. On meas 16, ct 2, W sit on MR knee, L arm around M neck, R arm high above head. M place R arm around W waist, L arm high above head.

Presented by Teddy and Al Wolterbeek

*Folk Dances Near and Far, B-1* revised (Fig IV) 7/01