

SICILIAN TARANTELLA (Italy)

The *Tarantella* is the one dance everyone associates with Italy. There are many forms of this dance, each section having its own *Tarantella*. This is a Sicilian version. It has figures quite similar to some of those found in American square dances, but done in Italian style they take on a different character. It is truly one of the favorite dances with all people, regardless of their nationality.

OPENING FORMATION: Two couples in a set, two men side by side facing two ladies side by side. Before starting dance, number the dancers ONEs and TWOs. The ONEs are diagonally across from each other, not opposite each other.

PART 1: Facing partner, clap own hands once, at the same time stepping on right foot and hopping, swinging left foot forward. Clap again and step-hop on left foot. Now take 4 tiny running steps in place, raising both hands overhead and snapping fingers. (If you use a tambourine, substitute a slap of the tambourine for the clapping, and shake it overhead during the running steps.) The pattern given above is done 3 more times, or a total of 4 times.

PART 2: Dancers run toward each other with 4 running steps, crouching low, snapping fingers (or shaking tambourines), straightening up and raising hands as they approach partner. Return to place, lowering hands with 4 steps. Repeat this pattern 3 more times, or a total of 4 times. This figure should

be done with arms freely waving around partner's body in a flirtatious manner, but without touching in any way.

PART 3: The number ONEs hook right elbows and skip around 8 steps. Then the number TWOs do the same.

Repeat above, starting with left elbows. Number ONEs do a "do-si-do" Italian style around each other, passing right shoulders. Then number TWOs do the same. (In an American style, "do-si-do" partners move forward, passing right shoulders, then pass around each other, back-to-back, returning to place, passing left shoulders. In the Italian style, dancers snap fingers, and do the figure with twirls and gay, flirtatious movements of body and arms.)

The "do-si-do" is now repeated, passing left shoulders, first by the ONEs, then by the TWOs.

PART 4: All face to the right around their own set, so that left shoulders are towards center of set, and with hands on hips skip forward counterclockwise 8 steps in a circle. About-face and do 8 more skip-steps in the other direction (clockwise) in circle.

Join left hands in center (left-hand star) and skip around counterclockwise 8 steps. Turn about, making a right-hand star and skip clockwise 8 steps.

Repeat dance from beginning. The dance is done $2\frac{1}{2}$ times on this record.

