

# Stella di Maggio

(Switzerland)

Stella di Maggio (“Stars of May”) is from the Valle di Blenio in Ticino Canton of Switzerland. This is an Italian speaking canton. The researcher who documented this dance is **Francis Feybli**. The music is from a collection called “Tessinertanze 1” (Tessin is German for Ticino). Jane and I learned it from **Rick Wallace and Carolyn Mills**, who learned it from a local folk dance group in Vienna in March, 2003.

**Pronunciation:** STEL-uh de MAH-zjee-oh

**Music:** Camp Hess Kramer 2007 CD

**Meter:** 2/4

**Starting Formation:** Circle of couples, woman on man’s right, hands held down continuously around circle.

**Steps and Styling:** Relaxed and social. Basic footwork is same for men and women in all four parts except in second figure, where footwork is opposite for men.

Meas Pattern

## Part 1

- 1-4 Four steps (RLRL) and two two-steps (RLR, LRL) all in LOD
- 5-7 Repeat meas 2, 3 and 4, (i.e. two steps (R L) and two two-steps (RLR, LRL) in LOD)
- 8-9 Continuing in LOD, step R L R, turning to face RLOD touch L
- 10-11 Repeat previous meas, opp ftwk and dir
- 12-13 Repeat meas 8 exactly
- 14-15 Releasing everyone except ones partner’s hand, M turns W CCW under his right arm. She steps L R L, touch R, he steps (and fudges) LRLR. Partners end facing LOD in open shldr-waist position with W on outside of circle. Free hands on hips.

## Part 2

- 1-2 Repeat meas 1-2 Part 1, except walk as a couple
- 3-4 Repeat meas 3-4, but polka around your partner a complete turn CW
- 5-7 Repeat previous three measures, but then open to face center
- 8-9 Walk as a couple (open shldr-waist pos) towards center 1, 2, 3, touch (M starts L, W starts R)
- 10-11 Repeat previous two meas, opp ftwk and dir (i.e. backing out of center)
- 12-13 Repeat meas 8-9 exactly
- 14-15 M and W make a complete turn moving away from center, M CW, W CCW (an “egg beater” turn), with “L R L, touch R, for W and R L R L for M; everyone ends facing LOD, hands joined continuously around circle as at beginning of dance

## Part 3

- 1-13 Repeat meas 1-14, Part 1
- 14-15 M turns W 1&1/2 times to end facing partner, M facing LOD. Both step L R L, touch-R. On the “touch”, M takes her right hand in his

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**Part 4**

- 1-4 Four steps, R L R L, M moving LOD, W moving RLOD, doing a “grand right and left”; counting your ptr as number one, when you get to the third person right elbow turn that person  $\frac{1}{2}$  turn with two two-steps.
- 5-7 Move back (R L) a person to person number two and left elbow turn that person with two two-steps  $\frac{3}{4}$  turn. M end facing center, W end facing away from center.
- 8-9 Turning to face partner, do three “siding” figures: Looking at ptr, moving CCW around each other, M facing mostly out, W facing mostly in, hands held unjoined down, both step R L R, touch L
- 10-11 Repeat previous two meas, opp ftwk and dir
- 12-13 Repeat meas 8-9 exactly
- 14-15 M taking W’s left hand in his right hand, turns her under a complete turn CCW. All join hands continuously in a circle to begin the dance again

**Note:** This dance is a mixer. Men progressed in (approximately) measure 6 of Part 4. Dance repeats with new partners until music ends.

Dance notes by Gary Diggs, 10-12-07

