


VARSOUVIENNE (PUT YOUR LITTLE FOOT) 
(American)

The Varsouvienne is based on the mazurka which was a favorite dance step of Poland and other European countries. For this reason, many countries have laid claim to the origin of this dance. Some authorities believe that the dance came to this country via the Mexican court of Carlotta and Maximilian where it was introduced by the Polish nobility. This seems plausible since the dance first became popular in the Southwestern United States. Almost every area of the country has its own version of the dance based on the patterns presented below. "Put Your Little Foot" is one of several names given to the dance. That the dance enjoyed great popularity is attested to by the fact that "varsouvienne position" today is a standard name for this dance position. American film makers often include the Varsouvienne in movies about our frontier or wild west.

Record: Folkraft 1165 B (78 rpm)

Formation: Ptrs, in free formation or in a double circle, all facing CCW in varsouvienne pos.

Meter: 3/4

Steps: Varsouvienne Mazurka Step - Slide L ft diag fwd L, transferring wt to L ft (ct 1). Bring R ft close to L and displace L ft "cutting" L leg diag fwd. Finish with L leg extended and ft raised a few inches off floor with the toe pointed downward (ct 2). Bring L ft across in front of R instep, left toe pointed downward (ct 3). This step may also be done to the R, in which case, reverse the ftwk.



Meas

Pattern

1-4 INTRODUCTION: No action.

FIG I: Long Phrase (Music A)

1-2 Facing LOD with W on M R, do two varsouvienne mazurka steps starting with L ft, progressing diag fwd L. Start with a preparatory movement, e.g., bend L knee, bringing L ft across in front of R instep, toe pointed downward (ct 3 of meas 4 of Introduction).

3 Three walking steps (L, R, L), M leading W in front of him and over to his L side, without releasing hands and both continuing to face in the same direction (cts 1-3).

4 Point R toe diag fwd R (cts 1-2). Bend R knee, bringing R ft across in front of L instep, R toe pointed downward (ct 3).

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, Fig I, starting with R ft, progressing diag fwd R, reversing ftwk for varsouvienne mazurka step and starting with R ft. Finish in orig starting pos.

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FIG II: Short Phrase (Music B)

- 1 Three walking steps (L, R, L), M leading W in front of him to his L side, without releasing hands and both continuing to face the same direction (cts 1-3).
- 2 Point R toe diag fwd R (cts 1-2). Bend R knee, bringing R ft across in front of L instep, R toe pointed downward (ct 3).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2, Fig II, reversing ftwork and direction.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, Fig II.