

AUPRES DE MA BLONDE  
(French-Canadian)

Source: Although Aupres de ma Blonde (My Favorite Blonde) is very French in character, the dance itself is considered French-Canadian. In style it is related to dances seen in France, particularly to the Ronde Lorraine.

Record: Folkraft 1090B

Formation: Form a circle with as many cpls as desired, hands joined. Figures change after every 8th ct. which is two per meas.

Measures	Pattern
(6/8)	
A	I.
1 - 4	8 skips to L.
5 - 8	8 skips to R.
B	
9 - 12	With 8 steps W walk twd ctr joining hands and forming an inner circle, M join hands in outer circle.
C	
13 - 16	M circle moves R with 8 steps, W move L.
17 - 20	8 skips in reverse directions.
A	
1 - 4	Without releasing hands W move twd and outward raising their joined hands as M (with hands released) move twd ctr of circle under the W arches. Once inside they turn to face W and join hands, retaining separate circles.
5 - 8	Each circle moves to its own R with 8 steps.
B	
9 - 12	Reverse directions.
C	
13 - 16	In 8 steps everyone releases hands, M coming between their own ptr and next W. All join hands. All M with backs to ctr of circle.
17 - 20	8 skips CW.
A	
1 - 4	8 skips CCW.
5 - 8	Release hands and to 8 cts M only turn to face ctr of circle joining hands to form arches. W mark time in place.
B	
9 - 12	W enter ctr of circle, face to turn ptr and curtsy extending L ft front, bending R knee and with both hands spread skirt, 8 cts.
C	
13 - 20	During the next 16 cts W weave in and out, leaving circle on the L side of ptr, and entering in from behind next M, etc. At the end of the 16 cts W face new ptr.
A	
1 - 4	M stamp R ft, W L on first ct, pause on second, bow-curtsey during the next two cts and with 4 steps turn alone describing a small circle in place.
5 - 8	Repeat the above twice more.
B	
9 - 12	

## AUPRES DE MA BLONDE (CONT.)

Measures      Pattern

C

13 - 16      Join both hands with ptr and skip in place with 8 skips CW.  
 17 - 20      With 8 skips turn CCW.

Repeat dance with the new ptrs.

Note: This record repeats one entire stanza (meas 1-20) of music which can be spent in serpentine off the floor, at which time the leaders can use their own discretion in creating floor patterns.

Presented by: Vyta Beliajus

## SHAKE THEM 'SIMMONS DOWN

An Alabama play party game.

Music: "Merrily Dance" by Vyta Beliajus

Formation: Any number of cpls form a circle, all hands joined.

Pattern: All walk to L 16 steps  
 All walk to R 16 steps  
 Four steps to ctr, four steps back, repeat  
 Do-si-do twice around your ptr  
 Do-si-do twice around your L hand lady  
 Promenade with the same L hand lady, who now becomes your new ptr.

Words: Circle left, do, oh, do, oh, circle L do, oh, do, oh,  
 Circle left, do, oh, do, oh, Shake them 'simmons down.

2. Circle right, do, oh, do, oh...
3. Balance all, do, oh, do, oh...
4. Round your partners, do, oh, do, oh...
5. Round your corners, do, oh, do, oh...
6. Promenade all, do, oh, do, oh...

Presented by: Vyta Beliajus