

La Gavotte Rhénane

(Alsace, France)

Of German origin, the Rhinish Gavotte, known also as "Rheinländer," probably comes from Prussia in the 1880's. It was very much in vogue in Alsace and was often danced at family celebrations and country balls until quite recently. Unlike the German form, Alsacian versions are very rich and include Scottish figures and turned polka refrains. Learned from Solange Denni, Heritage '88 Internationale, Cornwall, Canada.

Pronunciation: lah gah-VOHT ray-NAHN

Cassette: "Si on dansait " U.O.P. 1997 Side A/8; Heritage '88 International 4/4 meter

Formation: Circle of couples, all facing LOD, hands in promenade pos (R in R, L in L).

Steps: Scottish Step (1 to a meas): 3 steps and a hop (1 meas). Repeat with opp ftwk (meas 2).
Travelling Step (2 to a meas): Leap, step, step (cts 1,&,2); repeat with opp ftwk (cts 3,&,4).

Meas

Pattern

4 meas INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. AWAY AND TURN

- A 1 Drop hands. All W turn CW with one Scottish step, progressing in LOD, hands holding skirt, beg with R. M Move diag fwd twd ctr with one Scottish step, hands on waist, beg on L.
2 All M move out of ctr twd ptr with one Scottish step. W repeat meas 1, beg on L and turning CCW.
3-4 In Closed Ballroom pos, dance 4 Traveling steps, turning CW and progressing in LOD (2 full turns), beg ML, WR.
5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

II. MEN TURN

- B 1 Repeat Fig I, meas 1.
2 As M move twd ptr, they turn CCW with a Scottish step, W repeat Fig I, meas 2.
3-4 Repeat Fig I, meas 3-4.
5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

III. FWD. AWAY, LONG TURN

- C 1 In Open pos facing LOD, dance on Scottish step, starting on outside ft.
2 Repeat meas 1, moving back, still facing LOD.
3 All turn away from ptr (M to L; W to R) with one Scottish step. All clap on last ct.
4 Reverse action of meas 3.
5-8 In Closed Ballroom pos, turn CW in LOD using 8 Travelling steps.
9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

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IV. AROUND CORNER

- D 1 All join hands in V-pos facing ctr. Drop ptr's hand. All M passing behind, change places with corner using one Scottish step. Gentle pull on corner's hand (M L; W R) on ct 1.
- 2 Pulling on corner's hand (M L; W R), M pass in front of corner with one Scottish step.
- 3-4 Back with ptr, repeat Fig I, meas 3-4.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.
- Repeat the dance from the beginning.

Presented by Germain and Louise Hébert