

Giga

(Italy, Emilia)

This is a dance from Emilia-Romagna. Like the Piedmontese Gigo, the Giga from Emilia is a widely spread, popular dance in 6/8 rhythm. It is danced in couples, and belongs to the group called “Balli Staccati” (without touching) of the Bologna Mountains (Valle del Savena, Valle del Setta).

Pronunciation: JEE-gah

Music: 6/8 meter, counted 1, 2 CD: *Danze Italiane Vol. 1, Band 9*

Formation: Couples in large circle, facing partner, W with R shoulder to the center, M with L shoulder to the center, without holding hands.

Steps: Balletto: facing partner, without holding hands, lift R leg and make a gentle downward kick, bending the R knee slightly and bouncing on ball of L foot (ct 1); step on R (ct 2). Repeat with opp ftwk. 1 Balletto step = 2 meas or 4 cts.

Meas Music: 6/8 meter Pattern

2 meas INTRODUCTION No action.

I. FIGURE I (SPASSO E BALLETO)

- 1-2 M starts with R, W with L, with four steps M turns to R in LOD and fwd while W turns back to L into LOD.
- 3-4 With M going fwd and W bkwd, four skip steps moving CCW.
- 5-6 Facing ptr dance 1 Balletto steps with R, L (starting with step on L for M and on R for W).
- 7-8 Each sway away from center (M to R, W to L) and then turn quickly in place (M turn L, W turn R) to end facing each other as in beginning position.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

II. FIGURE II

- 1-2 Facing ctr, W on Ms' R, walk four steps twd ctr holding inside hands; on the last ct turn inwards twd ptr and change direction, reversing hold.
- 3-4 Facing outside, walk four steps back to place holding inside hands; on the last ct, W raise L hand at R shoulder while M moves in front of W to begin moving around her. Do not release M's L and W's R hand.
- 5-6 Without releasing handhold, M makes a complete circuit CCW around the W with skip steps while W stays facing away from ctr doing skip steps in place.
- 7-8 M quickly take W's L hand (which is at her R shoulder) and releases L hand. M keeps his R hand over W head, as he turns her L 1½ times under the arch made by the arms. M turn ½ L to face ctr with W on his R.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.
Repeat dance from beginning.

Giga—continued

III. FIGURE V (TRESKA) - Finale

Cpls space themselves freely about the floor, facing ptr, without holding hands. Dancers move together fwd and back (M beg with fwd movement), on a CCW elliptical trajectory, keeping the same distance between themselves, and flirting and inviting the ptr to follow. The ellipse also shifts slowly CCW around the dance floor. Steps can be walking or skipping, with other improvisational figures possible. M can crouch forward a little, especially on the fwd movements. Sequence can end with M stepping with L ft crossing in front of R and making a complete turn quickly to L to end facing ptr.

Sequence: I, II, I, II, I, II, III

Presented by Roberto Bagnoli