

TARANTELLA MONTEVERGINE

Origin: This dance comes from Rod LaFarge of New Jersey. The steps were collected from the peasants who dance at the many fiestas held by the Montevergine societies in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. The man is a rough individual who often tries to embrace the woman in the encircling position of the "sorellina." To allow this would brand the woman as a wanton in front of the crowd, so she may spread her arms and sometimes even slap the ardent swain, which of course delights the spectators.

Steps: A light running step or fast walking step, 2 steps per measure, starting R unless otherwise specified. Arms are held overhead, swaying in time with the music, with finger snapping. Castanets are often used instead of finger snapping. Music - 6/8

Formation: Two couples facing each other. Number "1" couple w/back to music. W on M's R.

Measures

FIG. 1 Circle

- 1-2 All join hands and circle w/shuffle grapevine - glide R foot to side, glide L behind R, glide R to side, glide L in front of R. Twist body and keep feet on floor.
3-8 REPEAT action of measures 1-2 three more times.
9-16 REPEAT action of measures 1-8, circling L and starting w/R gliding back of L

Chorus

- 1-4 Facing partner, arms overhead, do 4 pas de basque steps, starting w/a leap onto R and swing L over in front of R, touching floor (not a step swing)
5-6 Without actually touching, partners enclose each other w/outstretched, encircling arms at above waist level (W's arms under M's). Make 1 full turn CW w/4 steps. This position is called "sorellina" or little sister.
7-8 Each turns individually CW out of the embrace w/4 steps, raising arms overhead.
9-16 REPEAT action of measures 1-8 w/opposite footwork.

FIG. 2 - Star

- 1-8 All form R hand star, taking 16 steps FWD in CW direction - L hand high, fingers snapping.
9-16 Change to L hand star and repeat measures 1-8 in CCW direction.

Chorus

- 1-16 Same as above.

FIG. 3 - Elbow Turns

- 1-2 Linking R elbow w/partner, L hand over head, make 1 turn CCW w/4 steps
3 W/2 steps, M exchange places passing back-to-back (L shoulder leading). W take 2 steps in place. Link L elbow w/opposite W
4-6 REPEAT action of measures 1-3, making 1 turn CCW. M passing back-to-back (R shoulder leading), return to partner.
7-12 REPEAT action of measures 1-6.
13-14 REPEAT action of measures 1-2.
15-16 Turn individually CW into original place w/4 steps, arms held overhead.



...TARANTELLA MONTEVERGINE CONTINUED

Chorus

1-16 Same as above.

FIG. 4 - Shuttle Dos-a-dos

1-2 Facing opposite, arms overhead, take 2 polka steps (M FWD, W BKWD) so that M can pass back-to-back.
3-4 REPEAT action of measures 1-2 (M FWD, W BKWD), the couples thus exchanging places (as in a dos-a-dos of couples).
5-8 Facing partners, REPEAT action of measures 1-4.
9-16 REPEAT action of measures 1-8.

Chorus

1-16 Same as above.

FIG. 5 - Arches

1-4 With inside hands joined, outside hands on hips, couple #1 passes under the arch made by couple #2. Both couples exchange places w/4 steps/ Retaining hand holds, make a 1/2 turn CCW (M moving BKWD, W FWD) to face opposite couple w/4 steps.
5-8 REPEAT action of measures 1-4 w/couple #1 forming the arch.
9-16 REPEAT action of measures 1-8.

Chorus

1-16 Same as above

FIG. 6 - Cross Over and Slide

1-4 M/w R hands joined, L hands on hips, exchange places in 4 steps, flinging L hand out on 4th step. W/out releasing hands, change back w/4 steps. W keep time in place, hands over head.
5-8 REPEAT action of measures 1-4, ending w/M raising R hands to form an arch.
9-12 W join R hands under the arch, and exchange places. W/out releasing hands, change back.
13-14 Still w/R hands joined, W reach over arch and join L hands w/partners.
NOTE: entire formation revolves CW w/4 sliding steps, starting L
15-16 All release hands and turn individually w/4 steps in place CW.
NOTE: it is not necessary to finish in original place

Chorus

1-16 Same as above. End w/snapping of fingers over head.