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TARANTELLA VILLAGGIO

(Italian)

This dance comes from Rod La Farge of New Jersey, editor of "Rosin the Bow", America's oldest Folk and Square Dance magazine. The dance, one of the very few Italian mixer dances, was done at the Festas in and around New Jersey, by a group of Italians who come from the town of Grattaglia, south of Bari, in Puglia Province. It is a very lively, happy and flirtatious dance and in Bari, where it is done as a straight couple dance, it is known as "Tarantella Barese".

To avoid confusion, Rod La Farge has tagged this mixer version "Village Tarantella" or "Tarantella Villaggio".

MUSIC: Record: Harmonia H 3050B "Quadriglia Siciliana".
FORMATION: Circle of couples, all facing center, W on M R.
STEPS: Leap*, Walk*, Polka*, Pas de basque*.

MUSIC 6/8

PATTERN

Measures

4 meas.

INTRODUCTION

Sway in place.

I. TO CENTER AND BACK, VISIT AND RETURN

1-2 (a) With a leap onto R and bending fwd., W walk 4 steps twd. center of circle, swinging arms bwd., upwd., fwd. and dnwd. in a sweeping windmill motion, snapping fingers to the rhythm of the music.

3-4 W walk bwd. to place with 4 steps, gradually straightening body and raising arms overhead with continued finger snapping. During action of meas. 1-4, M step in place while snapping fingers overhead.

5-8 M perform action of meas. 1-4 while W step in place.

1-2 (repeated) (b) Face partner and, with hands on hips, dance 2 polka steps fwd. (M CCW, W CW), passing partner by R shoulder.

3-4 Face next person in line, raise arms overhead and dance 2 pas de basque steps (start by stepping with L and swinging R ft. over L), snapping fingers to the rhythm of the music as the up-raised arms are swayed from side to side.

5-8 Continue the up-raised arm motion and finger snapping, and at the same time flirt with partner by looking back over R shoulder, as partners return again to face with 4 mincing polka steps, turning in CW semi-circle around each other. This maneuver should be done with much exaggerated flirtation.

II. POLKA GRAND RIGHT AND LEFT, COUPLES POLKA

9-16 (a) Partners facing (M CCW, W CW), dance 8 polka steps doing a grand right and left. (Keep hands at shoulder height during progression.) As new partner is met on the eighth polka step (meas. 16) assume closed ballroom position.

9-16 (repeated) (b) Dance 8 polka steps turning CW and progressing CCW (LOD).

An exhibition of Tarantella Per Cinque by the Twin City Twirlers in the Marysville Auditorium

-Philip Maron photo.

