

BALLO SARDO or BALLO TANTO

(Sardinia)

Sardegna (Sardinia) is the only section of Italy which still retains an old time dance similar to those of the Balkan countries and the Near East. It is called "Ballo Sardo" (BAHL-loh SAHR-doh), Sardinian Dance, or Ballo Tanto (BAHL-loh TAHN-toh), Round Dance. When singers furnish the music, they stand in the middle of the open circle, but if accompaniment is by "Launeddas" (a typical Sardinian wind instrument), musicians stand a little apart from the dancers. Musicians play an important part in this dance for they often and unexpectedly change the tempo of the music, adding greatly to the enjoyment of the participants. Introduced by Vyts Beliajus at the 1961 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

MUSIC: Record: Folkcraft 1407 B x 45 "Ballo Sardo".

FORMATION: Open circle of cpls stand side by side, facing ctr, shldr's touching, arms held straight down, inside hands joined. Occasionally all dancers join hands, but more often just ptrs hold hands. Cpls may be 2 W or 2 M. Throughout the dance the circle moves gradually CW.

STEPS and STYLING: Walking step. Dancers stand erect. Except in the introduction there is no bouncing or springing. Steps are close to the ground, almost giving the effect of skating. When the music becomes lively, the M may kick higher and add fancy ftwk; W continue to dance smoothly, in a dignified manner.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

INTRODUCTION

1-6 Dancers move from R ft to L ft with a springing motion in the legs. On ct 2 of meas 5 the lead cpl (first cpl on L of open circle or a designated cpl in closed circle) raise joined hands straight fwd. On ct 1 of meas 6 the arms move rapidly downward to indicate beginning of dance. Hold ct 2.

I. STEP-POINT

A 1-2 Step on R ft in place (ct 1), point L in front of R, ft touches floor (ct 2), step on L in place (ct 1), point R in front of L (ct 2).

3-12 Repeat action of meas 1-2 five more times. There is a slight movement CW in circle.

II. POINT AND STEP CLOSE STEP

B 1-2 Step on R in place (ct 1), point L in front of R (ct 2), step L to L (ct 1), close R to L (ct 2), step L to L (ct 2), as in a quick step-close-step swd with ft close to the floor.

3-12 Repeat action of meas 1-2 five more times.

III. INTO THE CENTER AND BACK

C 1-3 With 3 steps, RLR, walk twd ctr of circle (cts 1-2-1), point L in front of R (ct 2), step to L on L (ct 1), point R across in front of L (ct 2).

4-6 With 3 steps, RLR, walk bkwd from ctr (cts 1-2-1), point L in front of R (ct 2), step L to L (ct 1), point R in front of L (ct 2) and make CCW semi circular motion in air with R (ct 2), to repeat pattern.

7-24 Repeat action of meas 1-6 three more times. M may raise legs on repetition. Knee may be hip high.

IV. POINT AND STEP CLOSE STEP

B 1-12 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-12.

Dance repeats three times (Figure I, II, III, IV). On last repetition Figure IV is done only five times.