

Passu Torrau (Italy)

.Passu Torrau (PAH-soo toh-RAU) comes from the vicinity of Nuoro (territory of Mamoiada) in Sardinia. Unlike most Sardinian dances, it consists of two different steps. *Passu* means “step” and *torrau* means “to come back.” There are many versions of this popular dance, but all are from the vicinity of Nuoro. It is commonly done at fiestas and after church on Sundays. Some versions involve couples joined in a circle. Celest DiPietro Paolo and Marie DiCocco taught one version at the Mendocino Folklore Camp in 1994; it is similar to Fig.1 of the dance described here. At the 2007 National Folk Organization conference, Yves Moreau introduced a Passu Torrau, also with two figures. He called attention to the similarity of this dance to Hanter Dro from Brittany (his Fig 1) and claimed it had “a certain Balkan flavor.” Indeed, his Fig. 2 has Balkan-like stamps and scuffs. Yves’ dance is scored in 2/4 meter so that three measures of 2 cts each is equivalent for dancers to one measure of 6/8 meter in other versions.

The dance described here was taught by Roberto Bagnoli at the 2008 Stockton Folk Dance Camp. The song for this dance, *Amore Contrariadu* (complicated love), is played by the group *Janas*. The dance was re-taught by Bill and Louise Lidicker at the Harvest Festival, Fresno, CA, on 18 Oct. 2008, and by Craig Blackstone at the Heritage Festival in San Carlos, CA, on 10 Jan. 2009. We express our gratitude to Roberto for his assistance in preparing this account, especially with respect to the lyrics.

CD: *Danze Italiane* vol. 1, Band 17 6/8 meter

Formation: Closed circle with any number of dancers, facing ctr and quite close together with hands joined, forearms in contact and parallel to the floor. There is a designated leader. In versions done in a broken circle or line, the lead is to the left.

Styling: Slight bounce from the knees on each step.

Measures	6/8 meter	PATTERN
----------	-----------	---------

INTRODUCTION. No action; begin with lyrics.

I. FIGURE 1

- 1 Step on L to L (ct 1); step on R next to L, with wt (ct 2); step on L to L (ct 3); bring R to L, no wt (ct 4); step on R to R (ct 5); bring L next to R, no wt with slight but distinct bending of knees (ct 6).

II. FIGURE 2

- 1 Step fwd on L (ct 1); step on R next to L, with wt (ct 2); bend both knees (ct 3); straighten both legs (ct 4); bend knees (ct 5); straighten legs (ct 6).
- 2 Step bkwd on L (ct 1); step on R next to L, with wt (ct 2); step on L to L (ct 3); bring

R to L, no wt (ct 4); step on R to R (ct 5); bring L to R, no wt, with small but distinct bending of knees (ct 6).

SEQUENCE: Leader signals the change from Fig 1 to 2 and back at will by shouting "AI-oh!"

In the lyrics for this dance, the phrase beginning “Duru, duru” is often repeated. These are nonsense words so cannot be translated. The next three lines below this (“Pro culpa ,,,”/ “Per causa ...”) are also a refrain, and they can be roughly translated as “Because of you I am always sad and I even changed my appearance. Come and we will share the pain, my dear, that I suffered because of you.”

Lyrics in Sardinian

AMORE CONTRARIADU

Duru duru diana duru diende duru duru diana duru diende; duru duru diana duru dirò

Pro culpa tua so malostiadu ch’hapo finzas diversu s’assimizu. Beni a nos divider su fastizu, su chi, bella, pro te hapo passadu.

Sos mios si sun dande sentimentu ca ti tenzo carignos biancu nie. Ma passet puru sa vida gasie: pro te ogni disgustu m’est cuntentu; cando s’hat a appartare ogn’alimentu m’han a privare de amare a tie, in su coro amorosu ti m’iscric finzas ch’hamus a giomper su disizu.

Pro culpa (REFRAIN repeated)

No mi disperat timoria nissuna: in firmesa che rocca so segundu. Cando rifletto in te isto giocundu mancarì mi traigat sa fortuna.

No podet benner mancu sole e luna de dare risplendores a su mundu e deo fin’a esser moribundu de t’amare hap’a tenner contivizu.

Pro culpa ... (REFRAIN repeated)

Contivizu hap’a tenner de t’amare de cantu m’aggradesses e t’istimo. A Deus solamente est su chi timo si no mi lassat s’intentu lograre. Mi podet dogni sorte cambiare ma su caugn’in te già lu cunfrimo.

Cando discurr’in te, bella, m’animo de cantu t’hapo in mente e su disizu. Mi podet dogni sorte cambiare ma su carign’in te già lu cunfrimo. Cando discurr’in te, bella, m’animo de cantu t’hapo in mente e su disizu.

Pro culpa (REFRAIN repeated)

Lyrics in Italian

AMORE CONTRASTATO

Duru duru diana duru diende duru duru diana duru diende; duru duru diana duru dirò

Per causa tua sono sempre triste ed ho mutato perfino l’aspetto. Viene e ci divideremo il dolore, quello che per te, bella, ho sopportato.

I miei mi rimprovereranno sempre. Perché ho tenerezza per te, bianca neve. Ma sia pure la mia vita così: per te ogni contrattempo diventa una gioia: solo quando mi priveranno del nutrimento. Mi impediranno di amarti, e tu fammi entrare nel tuo cuore e finalmente si avvererà il nostro desiderio.

Per causa (REFRAIN repeated)

Non mi spaventa nessuna paura, so no saldo nella mia fermezza come una roccia. Quando penso a te sono sereno anche se la fortuna mi tradisce. Potranno scomparire il sole e la luna e non dare più splendore al mondo. Eppure io, fino alla morte avrò sempre il pensiero di amarti.

Per causa ... (REFRAIN repeated)

Sempre avrò il pensiero di amarti perché mi sei gradita e ti amo. Io temo solo dio che non mi lasci portare a termine il mio disegno. Egli potrà modificare la mia sorte, ma io confermo il mio affetto per te.

Quando ti penso, bella, riprendo coraggio perché sei nella mia mente e nel mio desiderio egli potrà modificare la mia sorte, ma io confermo il mio affetto per te. Quando ti penso, bella, riprendo coraggio perché sei nella mia mente e nel mio desiderio

Per causa (REFRAIN repeated)