

Sor Cesare (Italy)

Sor Cesare (sohr CHEH-sahr-eh) is a couple dance from Tuscany/Umbria dating back to the second half of the 19th century. Most likely it originated in Tuscany from a narrative song. The song narrates the history of Sor Cesare and the girl Nina. In those days, the composer distributed his songs by selling handbills at county fairs. The name of this song and the dance means Sir or Mr. (in the respectful sense of the title) Caesar. The dance was taught by Roberto Bagnoli at the 2008 Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Bill and Louise Lidicker presented it at the Fresno Harvest Festival on 18 October 2008.

CD: Danze Italiane, Vol. 1, Band 12 3/4 meter

Formation: Couples in a circle facing LOD (CCW), W to R of M. M takes W's L hand in his L held fwd, and places his R arm about W's waist. W holds skirt to side with R hand.

Steps: Basic step: Small leap fwd onto L ft bending L knee and extending R leg in front, body is slightly bent to R (ct 1); step fwd on R (ct 2); step on L in place (ct 3). Cpl twists slightly to look at each other facilitated by the slight bend on ct 1 W does opp ftwk. Repeat with opp ftwk, cpl twisting slightly away from each other.

Balance step: Step on ball of L ft to L (ct 1); step on ball of R crossed behind L (ct 2); step on L in place (ct 3). Repeat with opp. ftwk and direction. W does opp ftwk.

Crossing step: M steps L in front of R twisting body to R (ct 1); step bkwd on R in place (ct 2); step on L to L (ct 3). Repeat with opp. ftwk and direction. W does opp ftwk. Arms follow the feet, i.e., when L ft crosses, L arm crosses in front of body.

Styling: M and W are on opp ftwk throughout the dance. When not holding ptr's hands, M's hands clasp the edges of a real or imaginary vest. W's hands are on skirt or held loosely at sides.

Measures	3/4 meter	PATTERN
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INTRODUCTION. Begin Fig. 1 with lyrics.

- 1 Ptrs step away from each other holding inside hands, M with back to ctr.
- 2 Ptrs bow to each other (slight dip of head).
- 3-4 Ptrs move twd each other and resume initial promenade pos.
- 5-8 Hold.

I. PROMENADE WITH CIRCLING

- 1-4 Beginning with outside ft (ML, WR) dance fwd in LOD with 4 Basic steps.

- 5-8 Release hands. Turn away from ptr and dance 4 Basic steps in a small individual circle, M to L (CCW), W to R (CW), returning to ptr in original pos. M hold edge of vest.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8, but end facing ptr with M inside, back to the ctr.

CHORUS

- 1-2 Beginning with (ML, WR), dance 2 Balance steps, holding ptr with both hands, arms stretched to sides.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.
- 5-8 Holding ptr in ballroom pos but with R hips adjacent, beg with outside ft (ML, WR) dance 4 Basics steps, rotating twice CW in place.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

II. CROSSING STEPS

- 1-4 Releasing hands, dance 4 Crossing steps beginning with ML, WR.
- 5-8 M dances 4 Basic steps making a CW circle around ptr holding edge of vest. W continues with 4 Balance steps in place (hands holding skirt).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

CHORUS

- 1-16 Repeat Chorus.

III. TURNS AND CLAPS

(**Note:** there is a brief pause in the music, and then the music continues without lyrics.)

- 1-2 Releasing outside hands, holding ptr briefly with inside hand (MR, WL), begin with outside ft (ML, WR) make a full turn in LOD (M to L, W to R) with 3 slow steps (cts 1, 3, 5); step onto free ft (MR, WL) in place (ct 6).
- 3 Facing ptr, M lift L leg with knee bent and clap hands under L leg (ct 1); clap hands in front lowering L leg (ct 2); hold (ct 3). W facing in, clap hands behind their back (ct 1); clap hands in front (ct 2); hold (ct 3).
- 4 Repeat meas 3, with M lifting and clapping under R leg.
- 5-6 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 7-8 Repeat meas 3-4 exactly.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

CHORUS

- 1-16 Repeat Chorus.

IV. FINALE

- 1-7 Repeat Fig III, meas 1-7.
- 8 M make small jump onto both feet, L slightly in front of R, R knee closer to the floor (ct 1); straighten both legs and bring them together, clap hands in front (ct 2); hold (ct 3). W face ptr, clap hands behind the back (ct 1); clap hands in front (ct 2); hold (ct 3).