TARANTELLA PER CINQUE (Tarantella for Five)

(Italian)

This is a composition of traditional tarantella steps arranged by Grace West to fit the record listed below, and presented by her at the 1951 Folk Dance Camp.

MUSIC: Record: Harmonia H 2050-A “Tarantella Siciliana”

FORMATION: Three men and two women, stand side by side, about three feet apart, in a straight line facing audience. M W M W M When more than one group is used they must be arranged in perfect formation, one line 1 1 2 2 3 behind the other, the lines about eight feet apart. Each person carries a tambourine in the right hand.

STEPS: Run*, Heel-Toe, Step Hop*, Buzz Turn*, Step step step hop* (See Schottische step, American barn dance*), Pas de Basque*, Two Step*, Change Step: Leap onto R ft at the same time kicking L ft fwd (ct 1), leap onto L ft, kicking R ft fwd (ct 2), leap onto R ft, kicking L ft fwd (ct 3), etc. for eight cts. Strike tambourine in front at about head level on each ct.

MUSIC 6/8

INTRODUCTION: There are five and one-half measures of introductory music which may be used to enter on an exhibition. If the dance is used as a general number at a large festival, dancers get into the mood by dancing freely at will, with hands held high over the head. In either case, do not stand still.

I. FORWARD, BACK, TARANTELLA STEP

1-2 Beginning R, W move fwd on four light running steps, arms going up over and down low in a wide arc. M use same ft and arm work but move bwd on running steps. (Tambourines are silent).

3-4 Beginning R, all return to position in line on four running steps. Eyes follow the hands as the arms are raised up and over head as the body is straightened. (Jingle tambourines on the rise and strike high overhead once on last step).

5-8 Beginning by leaping on R, do eight change steps in place. (Strike tambourine on each step).

9-16 Repeat all of I.

II. HEEL TOE, BUZZ TURN

1-4 Place L hand on hip, R hand still holding tambourine high. Move directly to R with eight hops on the L ft and four heel toe steps R. ie: Hop on L while touching R heel out to R side (ct 1), hop on L as R toe touches floor near L toe (ct 2), etc. (Shake tambourine to make distinct jingle on each hop.)

5-8 While turning R (CW) in place with buzz step turn, L arm is curved and trails behind body, R arm is curved and tambourine is held at chest level in R hand. (Jingle tambourine constantly.)

9-12 Beginning L repeat action of II (meas 1-4) moving back to place. (Shake tambourine, which is still in R hand, to make distinct jingle on each hop), L hand remains on the hip.

13-16 While repeating buzz turn to the R, No 2 M remains in place, both W move fwd finishing back to back about three ft in front of No 2 M, No 1 M and No 2 M move fwd so that the three M form a triangle about the two W. (Jingle tambourines constantly.)

III. MEN CIRCLE WOMEN

Women’s Part

1-2 With hands high over head W take three little steps in place R, L, R, hop on R ft at same time swing L ft fwd. (Strike tambourine on hop).

3-4 Repeat action of III, Meas 1-2, beginning L ft. (Strike tambourine on hop.)

5-8 Beginning R, W takes eight change steps (little kicks) in place. (Strike tambourine on each step.)

9-16 Repeat action of III Meas 1-8.

Men’s Part

1-4 With arms outstretched at shoulder level (L arm leading, R arm trailing), the 3 M, beginning L, travel CW half-way around the two W with four two-steps. (Shake tambourine with each two-step.)

5-8 M buzz turn R (CW) with R arm curved in front, L arm trailing. (Jingle tambourines constantly.)

9-12 Repeat action of III, meas 1-4, completing CW circle about W. (Shake tambourine with each two-step.)

13-16 M buzz turn R as they return to original position in line facing fwd. (Jingle tambourines constantly.)

Illustrations by Carol Gove
MUSIC 6/8

IV. WOMEN FIGURE EIGHT

Women's Part

1-2 With L hand on hip and R hand holding tambourine high, take 2 step hops R, L, moving fwd to original position. (Tambourine silent.)

3-4 While sweeping tambourine down, fwd, then upward in a circular motion, No 1 W moves behind and around No 1 M, while No 2 W moves behind and around No 3 M, with four running steps, R, L, R, L. (Jingle tambourines and strike them on last step.)

5-6 W continue on around in front of end M on two step hops, R, L. (Tambourines silent.)

7-8 W meet each other passing L shoulders as they move behind No 2 M on four running steps, using same arm and tambourine action described IV, meas 3-4.

9-10 W continue fwd, No 1 W crossing the original position of No 2 W, while No 2 W crosses original position of No 1 W, with 2 step hops. (Tambourines silent.)

11-12 No 1 W passes in front of and around behind No 3 M while No 2 W passes in front of and around behind No 1 M, with four running steps. (Jingle tambourines and strike them on last step.)

13-14 No 1 W crosses original position of No 2 W while No 2 W crosses original position of No 1 W with 2 step hops. (Tambourines silent.)

15-16 W pass R shoulders as they meet each other in front of No 2 M, and each continues fwd to her original position with four running steps. (Jingle tambourines and strike them on last step.)

Note: W R hand holds tambourine high on each step hop sequence, and circles low and then up high on each series of runs.

Man's Part

1-2 Facing fwd with hands high over head M takes 3 little steps in place R, L, R, then hops on R at same time swing L ft fwd. (Strike tambourine on hop.)

3-4 Beginning L ft, M repeat 3 little steps and hop. (Strike tambourine on hop.)

5-8 Beginning R, M take eight change steps (little kicks) in place. (Strike tambourines on each step.)

9-16 M repeat action of IV, meas 1-8.

BREAK

1 No 1 W and No 1 M face each other while No 2 M and No 2 W face each other. No 3 M faces fwd. Hands are held high over head. All pas de basque once on R ft.

2 No 1 W and No 2 W face each other while No 2 W and No 3 M face each other, No 1 M continues to face No 1 W's position. All pas de basque once on the L ft.

Note: On pas de basque steps both W and 2nd and 3rd M change tambourine from R to L hand. No 1 M does not change tambourine. (Tambourines are played at will on the pas de basque steps.)

V MILL AND SPIN

1-3 Holding tambourines high in L hand, No 1 W and No 2 M place palms of R hands together and they turn CW once in a R hand mill with 3 two-steps R, L, R. No 2 W and No 3 M also turn CW once in a R hand mill with 3 two-steps. No 1 M continues to pas de basque in place, with hands high over head. (Jingle tambourines.)

4 No 2 M pushes on palm of No 1 W to spin her around to R (CW) so she will face No 1 M, while No 3 M pushes on palm of No 2 W to spin her CW so she will face No 2 M.

Note: On the spin both W and No's 2 and 3 M change tambourines to R hand. While W are spinning No 2 M faces L slightly to face No 2 W.

5-7 No 1 M and No 1 W form a L hand mill and they turn CCW with three two-steps L, R, L. No 2 M and No 2 W do likewise. No 3 M continues to pas de basque with hands high over head, during L hand mill. (Jingle tambourines.)

8 No's 1 and 2 M spin their respective partners to L by pushing on the palm of the L hand, and all finish facing front.

1-74 Repeat all of the dance from the beginning.

1-48 Repeat Figures I, II, III.

Note: On last 4 meas of Fig III all buzz turn to R moving back to original line formation, and finish by striking tambourine once high over head, in a pose, all but No 3 M clasping R wrist of his neighbor with hand. (Jingle tambourines on buzz turn.)