

# Bassanello

(Italy, Veneto)

This dance comes from Veneto, a region in Northeast Italy, and is a very popular dance deriving from the Alpagota tradition in the Belluno province. The name refers to a small area in this province. It is a courtship dance done at the beginning of a wedding banquet, danced by the married couples, parents and witnesses.

Pronunciation: bah-sah-NEHL-loh

Music: 4/4 meter CD: *Danze Italiane Vol. 1*, Band 2.

Formation: Four couples in square formation, numbered 1 to 4 CCW, as in American Squares.

Steps: Balletto: M: with R shoulder in front, beginning with the knee slightly bent, leap onto R in front, leap back onto L three times, then jump on both feet, knees bent, and twisting to R so that L shoulder is fwd;  
W: leap on R extending L leg straightened in front, leap on L extending R leg; repeat three times, then jump on both feet, knees bent

Meas Music: 4/4 meter Pattern

2 meas INTRODUCTION No action.

## I. FIGURE I

- 1 Head W (1 and 3) exchange places with four steps passing L shldr, while head M passing behind their ptr move in front of the cpl to their R (1/4 to the R). End facing ctr.
- 2 Head cpls turn alone in place CCW with four steps, starting with R crossing in front of L, and turning to face each other.
- 3-4 Head cpls, facing ctr, Balletto in place.
- 5 Head W (1 and 3) exchange places with four steps passing L shldr and turning to face each other, while head M exchange places passing behind their ptr, making a ½ turn to R.
- 6 Repeat meas 2.
- 7-8 Repeat meas 3-4.

## II. FIGURE II

- 1-4 Head W and head M turn to their L, hook L elbow with corner and turn CCW 2 or 3 complete turns with 16 walking steps.
- 5-8 Head M cross to their own side passing by the R shldr to hook R elbow with ptr and turn CW with 16 walking steps.

Repeat dance from beginning but with side cpls (2 and 4). On the third time through the dance, the music fades out at about Fig II, meas 3.

Presented by Roberto Bagnoli