

LA BASTRINGUE (Lah bast-RANG)
(French-Canadian)

This dance is usually done as the 5th or 6th part of a long Quebec Quadrille called a Caledonia, to provide a chance to change partners. As learned from Yves Moreau at the 1977 Mendocino Folklore Camp.

Record: LEGACY (Elektra) 120 (4/4 meter); No introduction

Formation: Cpls in a circle, W on M's L, all hands joined at shldr ht.

Style: Happy and light; do not pick feet up very much. It is emphasized that there is NO CLOGGING of any kind done in this dance.

Meas. FIGURE I (Fwd and Back)

- 1 Move fwd cntr with 3 steps (R, L, R); touch ball of L ft next to R on ct 4.
- 2 Same as meas 1 but move fwd using opp ft.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.

FIGURE II (Two-step to L and R)

- 5-6 Turning to face CW around the circle and moving in that direction, dance fwd 4 two-steps starting R (step fwd R; close L to R; step fwd R; repeat with opp ft; repeat all three more times). Face cntr on last two-step.
- 7-8 Same as meas 5-6 but move fwd CCW around circle; again start R.

FIGURE III (Swing)

- 9 M release R hands and W release L hands to separate into cpls; both take 4 steps RRL while W turns once CW under joined L hands and ends in front of ptrnr in social dance posn.
- 10-12 Move CW around ptrnr with a buzz step, keeping wt on R ft and pushing with L on each up-beat. End with W on M's R, both facing CCW around circle, M on inside; W's L hand on M's R shldr, M's R arm around W's waist; free hands hanging at sides.

FIGURE IV (Promenade)

- 13-16 Move fwd CCW around circle with 8 two-steps starting R; on the last two-step M swing W fwd slightly so all end facing cntr, ready to start the dance over again. M's new ptrnr is now on his L side.

Words to the song: Mademoiselle voulez-vous danser, La Bastringue, La Bastringue?
" " " " " va commencer!

Oui monsieur je voudrais danser, La Bastringue, La Bastringue,
" " " " " , c'est pour vous accompagner!

Presented by Dean and Nancy Linscott

LA BASTRINGUE

(French Canada)

La Bastringue (lah bast-RANG) is usually danced in Canada as the fifth or sixth part of a long Quebec quadrille. The dance was collected by Jean Trudel and brought to California by Yves Moreau.

MUSIC: Record: Legacy LEG 120, Side 2, Band 8.

FORMATION: Cpls in a single circle, facing ctr, W on ptr's L, hands joined at shldr height.

16 STEPS: Two-Step*, Buzz*, Walk*.

STYLING: Styling is happy and light but do not pick up the feet too far off the floor. There is no clogging.

*Described in Steps and Styling volume, published by Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., 1375 "A" Street, Room 111, Hayward, California 94541

MUSIC 4/4

PATTERN

Measures

1-5 INTRODUCTION No action (wait through 5 meas of foot tapping).

I. FORWARD AND BACK

A 1 Beg R, walk 3 steps twd ctr and touch L beside R.

2 Repeat action of meas 1 but beg L and move away from ctr.

3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2.

II. TWO-STEP TO L AND R

5-6 Turning to face CW, dance 4 two-steps RLOD, starting with R ft. Turn to face LOD at end of last two-step.

7-8 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig II) but dance LOD. Face ctr at end of last two-step.

III. SWING

B 1 Releasing other hands, M turn W once CW under joined M L and W R hands with 4 walking steps beg R to end ptrs facing in Closed Pos*.

2-4 Ptrs swing with Buzz steps in Quebec style with ptrs facing (not a side by side Square Dance swing) and inside of the R ft adjacent. End with both facing LOD, W on outside with M R arm around W waist and W L hand on M R shldr. Free hands hang naturally at the side.

IV. PROMENADE

5-8 Cpls promenade with 8 two-steps beg R. On last two-step turn 1/4 CCW to face ctr and join hands in a single circle to repeat dance with new ptr.

Dance repeats 4 times (5 times in all) with Fig I and II repeated again.

Words to La Bastringue

Mademoiselle voulez-vous danser La Bastringue, La Bastringue?

Miss, would you like to dance The Bastringue, The Bastringue?

Mademoiselle voulez-vous danser La Bastringue va commencer!

Miss, would you like to dance? The Bastringue is going to begin!

folk culture in Québec

(Pronounced Ki-wi-bek' by outlanders and Ke 'bek' by locals)

Québec, as is true in much of Canada, is a land of mixed nationalities. Its culture is as varied as a cross section of its population. Folk dancing in Québec is just as varied as any other culture media. Though the population is predominately of French extraction there are many other cultures represented, each of which lent their identity to the picture.

Though the French eight, the minuet and the cotillion can be thought to be the origins of Québec Folk Dancing, you will find just as many doing the jigs and reels of the Scottish Country Dancers, the American style square dances, plain steps, one steps, waltzes and polkas, the Caledonia, Paul Jones, Portland Fancy, Boston Roll, Old Dan Tucker and contra dances. Mix with these a heavy serving of other European dances and you have a good picture of what you may expect in the Folk Dancing of Québec.

As in years now past, here in the U.S. you can still find the country townfolk doing their quadrilles and square dances without callers. As the population becomes more mobile there is a need for callers, as the newcomers to the community will not know the set of figures in a particular dance. A prompter is needed and soon we find the caller just as our square dances are called here. In earlier days, if no musical instruments were available, or where only one instrument was available to set the tune, the dancers would sing along with "Cheek Music" or "Chin Music" to accompany their feet. With improvements in recording music, there is no longer need for such improvisation, and these traditions are falling aside.

The Citadel City of Québec is located on the first narrows of the St. Laurent River, and served as the main base for the great French explorers, who probed West to the Rockies, and South to the Gulf of Mexico. Kebec, (as the Indians named this point on the river), is as far upstream as the sailing vessels dared go. From here the explorers and trappers must travel on their own power. Here, then is the seat of their culture, and their government. These French pioneers settled, and held most of what is now Canada and the U.S., with Québec as the capital. But, they were too thinly settled, and in vast pieces the land was wrested from their hold, leaving them with the province of Québec, and that was no longer a French province, except as a part of Canada.

So we have a small stronghold of French culture in North America. There are a number of ethnic groups still active in preserving the French traditions, but much has been lost or mixed with other cultures. We can only hope that enough of the young people maintain their interest in the forebears to keep these few traditions alive.

(From the Canadian Council Information Service.)

Oui monsieur je voudrais danser, La Bastringue, La Bastringue,
Yes, sir. I would like to dance The Bastringue, The Bastringue.

Oui monsieur je voudrais danser, c'est pour vous accompagner!
Yes, sir. I would like to dance, in order to be with you!

