

## BASTRINGUE

La Bastringue (roughly pronounced luh bust-RANG) is a popular French-Canadian party song telling the story of an old man asking a young lady to dance, only to find out he's not quite up to it. According to Francis Coleman (liner notes for Folkways album no. FW 6951), "It is older than most of its counterparts. When danced by earlier French colonialists in America it was almost a sedate dance, without the benefit of feet tapping loudly or the more raucous noises that are now customary..."

The dance instructions below fairly reflect the present (1977) form of the dance, at least in the U.S.A., and are reprinted with the kind permission of Frank & Dee Alsberg, FOLKTIVITIES magazine, Evanston, Ill.

RECORD: Legacy 120 (formerly Elektra 7266), Folkdancer MH-45-1506.

RHYTHM: 4/4

FORMATION: Couples in a single circle, facing center, W on ptr's L,

STYLE: This is a clogging dance, so do the 2-steps with a western North Carolina clog step (see below) or at least with plenty of "stomping".

Yips, yells and some shrieks are appropriate "ad-lib".

STEPS: The basic western North Carolina clogging 2-step is done as follows: Step on R ft with a slight pull or "chug" backward, simultaneously straightening R knee sharply and bringing L leg with bent knee slightly fwd, letting ft hang naturally close to floor (ct 1), step on ball of L ft next to R ft with bent L knee (ct 2), step on R ft with a slight pull or "chug bkwd, simultaneously straightening R knee sharply and bringing L leg with bent knee slightly fwd, letting ft hang naturally close to floor (ct 3), hold (ct 4). Next 2-step begins with L ft.

### PATTERN

Meas. Starts with music.

FIGURE I (Hands held in "W" position, shoulder height)

- 1-2 Moving twd ctr, step fwd on R ft (cts 1-2), step fwd on L ft (cts 3-4). Step fwd on R ft (cts 1-2), lift on ball of R ft, swinging L leg with bent knee fwd (cts 3-4).
- 3-4 Moving away from ctr, step bkwd on L ft (cts 1-2), step bkwd on R ft (cts 3-4). Step bkwd on L ft (cts 1-2), lift on ball of L ft, swinging R leg with bent knee fwd (cts 3-4).
- 5-8 Repeat action of Fig I, Meas 1-4 exactly.

### FIGURE II

- 9-12 Turning to face CW and moving in RL0D (CW), dance four 2-steps, beginning on R ft and turning CW on the fourth one to face LOD (CCW).
- 13-16 Repeat action of Fig II, Meas 9-12, using same ftwk but moving in LOD and turning CCW on fourth 2-step to face ctr.

### FIGURE III

- 17-19 M release R hands and W release L hands to separate into cpls. M raise L hands and turn ptr once CW under joined hands (Meas 17-18) then lead ptr CW in front of him (Meas 19).
- 20-24 Hold ptr in closed position and, facing ptr, take small step to own L so that outside of R ft is next to outside of ptr's R ft and R hips are adjacent. Then leaning away from ptr and pretending R ft is on a scooter, push with L ft and let R ft follow along. This is a "buzz step" swing. Swing ptr for five measures, ending by both facing LOD with W on outside of circle, M on inside.

(CONTINUED)

(LA BASTRINGUE continued)

FIGURE IV

25-32 W place L hand on M's R shoulder, M place R arm around W's waist, then dance eight 2-steps in LOD, beginning on R ft. On the 8th 2-step, M sweep W fwd, turning 1/4 turn CCW themselves, so that all are again in a single circle. Girls have progressed one M fwd in LOD (M's new ptr is now on his L side).

Repeat entire dance from the beginning.

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Vocal recordings of La Bastringue exist on FOLKWAYS albums No.FW 6951, "Songs & Dances of Quebec", and FG 3532, "Alan Mills & Jean Carignan", but these recordings are scarce and difficult to dance to. The French lyrics and translations are included below to aid those who might wish to sing along to the instrumental version while dancing:

Mademoiselle voulez-vous danser  
La Bastringue, la Bastringue?  
Mademoiselle voulez-vous danser  
La Bastringue va commencer.

Mademoiselle do you wish to dance  
The "Bastringue," the "Bastringue."  
Mademoiselle do you wish to dance  
The "Bastringue" will soon begin.

Oui Monsieur je veut bien danser  
La Bastringue, la Bastringue,  
Oui Monsieur je veut bien danser  
C'est pour vous accompagner.

Yes Sir I would like to dance  
The "Bastringue," the "Bastringue,"  
Yes Sir I would like to dance  
To be able to accompany you.

Mademoiselle vous avez danser  
La Bastringue, la Bastringue,  
Mademoiselle vous avez danser  
Vous aller vous fatiguer.

Mademoiselle you have danced  
The "Bastringue," the "Bastringue,"  
Mademoiselle you have danced  
You will soon tire yourself.

Oh Monsieur je veut bien danser  
La Bastringue, la Bastringue,  
Oh Monsieur je veut bien danser  
Je suis prête a recommencer!

Oh Sir I would like to dance  
The "Bastringue," the "Bastringue,"  
Oh Sir I would like to dance  
I'm all ready to start again!

Mademoiselle je peut plus danser  
La Bastringue, la Bastringue,  
Mademoiselle je peut plus danser  
Parce ce que j'ai des cors aux pieds!

Mademoiselle I can't dance  
The "Bastringue," the "Bastringue,"  
Mademoiselle I can't dance  
Because I have corns on my feet!

(Our French dictionary defines Bastringue as a "public house dance".)

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This sheet was sloppily typed by Rich Langsford for Folkdance Underground.