

BOURRÉE DROITE DU PAYS FORT

(France)

This bourrée (boo-RAY DWAHT doo pay FOR) means "straight bourrée from the strong country." It comes from the region of Sancerre in Upper Berry, which is called the "strong country" because of its energetic dances. Pierre Panis and Paul Bouard taught the dance to Louise and Germaine Hébert, who introduced it at the 1968 Folk Dance Camp at the University of the Pacific, Stockton, California. Bourrées are the "real" French dances, and although their origin is unknown, they are widely spread throughout French territory.

Music: Record: Rythme 4001 - side A, "La Bourrée Droite du Pays Fort" 3/8 meter. Barclay 820138 - side 2, band 4, "Bourrée Croisée de Sologne" (substitute).

Formation: Cpls in longways formation. Line of M with L shoulder twd head of hall, facing line of W, with ptrs four feet apart. Ptrs should be able to touch other's hands when arms are straightened. This dance is never danced in circle. Hands free at sides, or W may hold skirt or edge of apron where hands fall naturally. Do not swish skirt.

Steps and Styling: In Berry, bourrées are danced in a sober manner, with the M carrying most of the typical styling in their knee action. In the long step fwd, M lead with the heel, then take full body wt on to the whole ft. M knees are kept apart (turned out) and never fully straightened throughout the dance. W are strictly forbidden to copy M styling, and they dance in a very delicate way. Ftwrk is identical for both M and W.

Pas de Bourrée (pah deh boor-RAY) - Bourrée step (1 meas). Step fwd on L, bending knees outward (ct 1); step on R near L, beginning to straighten knees slightly (ct 2); step in place on ~~L~~ L ft (ct 3). Next bourrée step would begin with R. The step can be done moving fwd or bkwd, to R or L, or turning.

Avant-deux du Haut Berry (ah-vahn-DOO) - from Upper Berry - (4 meas): two dancers face each other four feet apart.

Meas 1: Beginning L, take one long step fwd (ct 1); scuff R heel fwd (ct 2); hop L in place (ct 3).

Meas 2: Step on R across L (ct 1); step slightly bkwd on L (ct 2); step R close to L (ct 3).

Meas 3: Beginning L, dance one bourrée step moving bkwd to orig place.

Meas 4: ~~Beginning R, dance one bourrée step in place.~~ STEP BKWD ON

NOTE: There is great emphasis on first step. R (ct 1) STEP FWD L (ct 2) STEP R close to L (ct 3)

Bransiller (brahn-see-LAY). Basically "pas de basque" or bourrée danced in place, and used as a transition step between avant-deux and croisement. In true Upper Berry style, there is no cross step on ct 2. The last bransiller step before crossing becomes a preparatory move. This is accomplished by quickly turning so that the L shoulder is twd ptr, to initiate the crossing step. This quick change of direction momentarily before crossing is vital, traditional and always done. This anticipation characterizes the whole style of Berry dances.

BOURRÉE DROITE D'U PAYS FORT (continued)

Croisement du Haut Berry (kwahz-MAHN) From Upper Berry - Crossing over (4 meas).

Meas 1: Beginning L, take one long step twd ptr, at same time pivoting L, CCW around each other to finish in ptr's orig line, and facing each other. ~~Step R beside L (ct 2); step L in place (ct 3).~~

Meas 2: Step R in place, ~~throwing L ft adwd L~~ (ct 1); Step L beside R (ct 2); step R in place (ct 3).

Meas 3: Beginning L, dance one bourrée step, moving bkwd to opp place.

Meas 4: Beginning R, dance one bourrée step in place.

Epingle à cheveux (ay-pang-luh ah-shuh-VOO - as in book) -- hairpin or U-turn (4 meas): two dancers are in single line facing head of hall, M behind W.

Meas 1: Beginning L, take one long step, each to own L, at the same time pivoting 1/2 L, CCW. (Dancers are now facing ft of hall, W behind M.) Step R beside L (ct 2); step L in place (ct 3). Do not dip shoulder.

Meas 2: Beginning R, dance one bourrée step in place.

Meas 3: Repeat action of meas 1 of "epingle à cheveux." (Dancers now are again facing head of hall, M behind W.)

Meas 4: Beginning R, dance one bourrée step in place.

MeasPattern

4 meas INTRODUCTION, No action.

A FIGURE I. AVANT DEUX.

1-2 M move fwd twd W, with meas 1-2 of "Avant-deux du Haut Berry." W remain in place; no action.

3-4 M move bkwd to orig place with meas 3-4 of "Avant-deux du Haut Berry."

W dance action of meas 1-2, as described for M.

5-16 M repeat avant-deux steps (fwd and bkwd) three more times (four in all).

W continue steps as described for M.

NOTE: W steps will carry over into next phrase of music.

B FIGURE II. CROISEMENTS AND BRANSILLER.

As Fig. II begins, M are in orig pos. W, who started two meas later, are in the middle of the formation.

1-6 M dance six "bransiller" steps in place.

W complete last two meas of "avant-deux," and then dance four "bransiller" steps in place.

7-10 All dance "Croisement du Haut Berry" (4 meas). Dancers are now in ptr's orig place.

11-14 All dance four Bransiller steps in place.

15-16 All dance first two meas of Croisement du Haut Berry, but do not cross over: M turns 3/4 CCW, W turns 1/4 CCW to finish facing head of hall, M behind W. Dancers are now in single file in ctr of formation.

Continued...

BOURREE DROITE DU PAYS FORT (continued)

- A FIGURE III. EPINGLE A CHEVEUX:
 1-16 All dance steps of "epingle a cheveux," four times.
- B FIGURE IV. CROISEMENTS AND BRANSILLER.
 1-2 All dance two "bransiller" steps, backing up into orig pos. M make 1/4 turn CW, W turn 1/4 CCW to face M.
 3-6 All dance four "bransiller" steps in place.
 7-8 All dance first two meas of "Croisement du Haut Berry)
 9-14 All dance six "bransiller" steps in place.
 15-16 M pivot full turn in place, turning CCW on L, then dance one bourrée step in place. W dance two more "bransiller" steps in place. Ptrs have now exchanged place.

From ptr's place, repeat dance from beginning. This time, at end of Fig. II, dancers will have backs to head of hall.

At end of dance, custom decrees that M kiss ptr first on her L cheek, then on her R cheek.

NOTE: Rythme record - 4 meas introduction; allows for entire dance 2-1/2 times; has no additional music for kiss.
 Barclay record - 8 meas introduction; allows for entire dance 1-1/2 times; has additional music for kiss.

Presented by Louise and Germaine Hébert