

La Brande

(France)

La Brande (lah BRAWN-duh) is a circle dance from the province of Berry, France. It was presented at the 1984 North-South Teachers' Seminar by Marilyn Wathen who learned the dance in France during the summer of 1982.

CASSETTE: Bal Folk en Californie by Le Soleil Side B/3.

2/4 meter

FORMATION: Dancers in a single circle, facing LOD (CCW). Hands are relaxed at sides and held slightly away from body.

STEPS and
STYLING:

Traveling Pas de Bourrée (pah duh boo-RAY): Step fwd on L (ct 1); step on R beside L (ct &); step on L slightly fwd (ct 2). Step alternates.

Pas de Bourrée Épaulé (ay-poh-LAY) 4 meas to complete:

Meas 1: Facing LOD with L shldr twd ctr, take a large step twd ctr on L, turning 1/2 CCW to end facing RLOD with R shldr twd ctr (ct 1); step on R beside L (ct &), step on L beside R (ct 2).

Variation: Dance ct 1 as described above (ct 1); bring R ft beside L, ankles almost touching and R ft parallel to floor but bearing no wt (ct &); hold (ct 2).

Meas 2: Décalage (DAY-kah-lahzh) Step on R beside L, bending R knee more than usual and starting to reach to L side with L (ct 1); step sdwd L on L (ct &); step on R beside L (ct 2).

Meas 3: Take a large step away from ctr on L, turning 1/2 CW to end facing LOD with L shldr twd ctr (ct 1); step on R beside L (ct &); step on L beside R (ct 2).

Variation: Dance ct 1 as described above (ct 1); bring R ft beside L, ankles almost touching and R ft parallel to floor but bearing no wt (ct &); hold (ct 2).

Meas 4: Repeat meas 2 (Décalage).

Styling is smooth and flat, with steps taken on the full ft. Knees are slightly bent throughout.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures
Chord +
8 meas

INTRODUCTION No action

I. TOWARD CENTER AND BACK

A 1-16 Beg L ft, dance 4 Pas de Bourrée Épaulé.

II. CIRCLE AND MOVE IN LOD

B 1 Beg L ft, dance 1 Traveling Pas de Bourrée twd ctr, making 1/2 turn CCW on ct 1.

2 Continuing the CCW turn, dance 1 Traveling Pas de Bourrée beg R ft and travel out to orig circle. End facing LOD having completed 1 full CCW loop during meas 1-2.

3-4 Travel in LOD with 2 Traveling Pas de Bourrée steps, beg L ft.

5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three more times.

Repeat dance from beginning four more times.

Description written January 1985.

