

MARTINIQUE MAZURKA

The Creole girls of the islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique in the French West Indies are considered among the loveliest and most beautiful of the world. They have all the elegance of the Parisian and all the simplicity of the West Indian, and these qualities of both the Old and New Worlds are combined in their interpretation of the Mazurka. The dance and the music were originally brought from France to the islands and underwent their transformation into a dance of the Caribbean. In the form dances in the French West Indies, the Mazurka has, if anything, gained in elegance and chic. The steps have been influenced by the Beguine which originated in this locality, but an aristocratic air which typified the French Mazurka remains enlivened by the African heritage which is a part of these people of the Caribbean.

Music: Monogram _____ Creole Mazurka

Formation: Couples facing CCW in a circle, inside hands joined. W holding skirt in R hand (not raised).

Steps:

Beguine: Dance in open position, inside hands held. Step on outside ft (M's L, W's R) (ct. 1). Bringing inside ft back of outside ft, change weight (ct. &). Step almost in place on outside ft (ct. 2). Step on inside ft (ct. &). Step on outside ft (ct. 3). The step is repeated beginning M's R, W's L.

Mazurka: Open ballroom position. Following LOD, partners step fwd on outside ft (M's L, W's R), inclining body fwd (ct. 1). This is a heavy step. Take wt on inside ft, leaving outside ft fwd (ct. 2). Brush outside ft slightly across in front of inside ft, keeping wt on inside ft (ct. 3). This step is repeated to the same side.

Change Step: To change direction and change ft. Partners retaining arm position of open ballroom, step back on outside ft (ct. 1). Step to side with inside ft (ct. 2). Step outside ft fwd (ct. 3). While this change is being made partners shift direction to face CW and are ready to start Mazurka step in opposite direction and on opposite ft.

Cross Mazurka: Face partner, R hands joined and R shoulders adjacent:

M: Step to L side with L to dance on Mazurka step as described above. Change step as described at same time joining L hands with L shoulders adjacent.

W: Crossing R over L step fwd onto R (ct. 1). Step back onto L (ct. 2). Brush R in front of L (ct. 3). Bring R in circular motion to step back on ct. 1 on the change step.

MARTINIQUE MAZURKA (continued)

Mazurka-Beguine: A combination of the Mazurka and Beguine steps. Face partner and take all steps directly sdwd. Each moves first to own L. Step sdwd L (ct. 1) taking all wt onto L. Step onto R in place (ct. 2). Step L beside R, taking wt (ct. &). Change wt to R (ct. 3).

Music 3/4

Meas. Introduction

1-8 Couples holding inside hands sway to music in place.

I. Beguine

1-8 Beginning M's L, W's R, dance LOD - 8 Beguine steps.

II. Mazurka and Change

1-7 Open ballroom position moving LOD, 7 Mazurka steps.

8 Change step to change direction to CW.

1-7 Beginning outside ft, 7 Mazurka steps CW.

8 Change step to finish facing LOD.

Repeat Figures I and II.

III. Cross Mazurka

1-2 Beginning M's L, W's R, dance one Cross Mazurka and one change step.

3-4 Beginning M's R, W's L, dance one Cross Mazurka and one change step.

5-8 Repeat action of meas. 1-4.

IV. Elbows Joined

1-8 Beginning M's L, W's R (R elbows joined) describe one complete circle CW with 8 Beguine steps. Partners lean in direction of ft used, M to his L and W to her R. On step 2 M leans to his R and W to her L.

1-8 Repeat above with L elbows joined.

V. Mazurka-Beguine

1-8 Partners facing, M back to center. Beginning both L, each move to own L with 7 Mazurka-Beguine steps and one change step.

1-8 Repeat step, both moving to own R.

Interlude

1 W holding skirts up slightly take wt on R, step L in back and incline body slightly fwd to bow to partner.

2-4 W repeats bow three times more, stepping L R L. M at same time standing in place curves R arm in front of body, L arm curved in back, bows slightly to W 4 times.

Repeat I.

1-8

Repeat II. to end of music.

-- arranged and presented by Lisa and Walter Lekis