

SARDANA
(Catalan)

No national dance is of greater importance to a people as is the Sardana to the Catalans. It is their hope, their inspiration and their prayer. (For detail on the Catalans, Catalonia, their history, dances and costumes, see VILTIS, March-April '54).

There are but three step combinations for a Sardana. Unlike any other type of dance with which we are familiar, such as kolos, horras, debkas, where steps change with the melody, in the case of Sardanas the steps are always the same tho' a new tune will be played. The only change that may take place is whether the "short" or "long" is done 23 times or 39 times, or more or less, or whether the rapid step is omitted in the center or not. We will describe here the steps and the dancer may apply them to any Sardana and he will have to learn to discern when which falls in.

Music: Folkraft 3128 A and a great number of European manufacture.

Formation: Circle. Hands joined and held down. Body flows with and over footwork.

The count consists of 1 & 2 &, etc.

CORTS--SHORTS

With heel well turned, point L toe front (4th position) (1), step L ft behind R (5th position) (&), step R ft to R diagonally front (1), step L ft near R (&). Reverse above: Point R (1), place R ft behind L (&), step L to L diagonally front (1), bring R ft near L (&). Continue doing this step until time for Llargs (or, long step). If there is a discernable stop, then on the last ct bring one ft next to the other with an accent.

LLARGS--LONGS

Hands up shoulder high. Begin as above--point R front (1), step behind L (&), step L to front L (1), bring R to L ft (&), point L front (1), set L in place (&), point R in front (1), cross R ft in front of L and place it on floor (&). This would be four counts of "1, &." Reverse above. NOTE: All LLARGS usually start on R ft.

FINAL

This is a rapid part with runs and hops. Hands are still held shoulder high. In this part there are either 3 runs or 3 hops to each ct. R ft starts from a front position and is placed behind L ft, step to L with L ft and bring R close to L (1). Hop on R three times pointing L ft fwd and keeping it close to floor (1). Repeat the hopping on L ft with R ft fwd (1). Again repeat the hopping on R ft (1). This takes 4 meas. for one direction, now the L ft is free to start in reverse.

At the very end of a Sardana after the Final there will be a chord or two (mostly two); during these two chords place feet together and then extend hands straight fwd shoulder level.

A number of the Sardanas have the above Final only at the very end of the dance and none in the middle and a sequence of such a Sardana will be, corts, llargs, corts, llargs, final.

-- presented by Vyts Beliajus

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