

## TARANTELLA VILLAGGIO

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RECORDS - Tarantella Barese - Columbia 14675 F - Spiro S 7102 a  
If unavailable - Quadriglia Sicliana, Description by Rod La Farge with  
Harmonia H 3010 B minor word changes.

This dance, particularly interesting as the only Italian "mixer" that I have ever seen, I found being danced by a family group at a small New Jersey Festa. Signor Relli, who played an accordion for the dancing, explained that this group came from the town of Grottaglie, south of Bari in the region of Puglia. Of course they are Baresi (Italians usually count themselves citizens of the chief city of their region.) but my informant tells me that in Bari proper it is a straight couple dance, so to avoid confusion I have tagged this nameless version as a 'Village' tarantella.

POSITION Circle of couples, all facing center, lady on the right of man for the first figure. In the second figure partners face each other.

STEPS Polka, walking, pas de basque.

FIGURE 1 - Starting with a leap on the right foot, the ladies take four walking steps toward the center of the ring, bending forward as they do so. The arms swing in a motion as if to shovel hay, lift it, and toss it up behind their back; thus, arms ~~swing~~ down behind, forward, up and back. Ladies return to place with four steps gradually straightening up and raising arms high snapping fingers. Men repeat the figure while women keep time in place as men did before.

Swinging →

FIGURE 2 - All face partners (single circle) with hands on hips, take two polka steps forward, passing partner by the right shoulder.

FIGURE 3 - Facing next person in line, all raise arms overhead and do two pas de basque steps, starting with left foot, swinging right over left. The upraised arms are swaying from side to side while finger snap in rhythm. Individuals in the meantime look back at own partner and dancing four mincing polka steps in a clockwise semicircle around original partner return to place, moving CW. This manoeuvre should be accompanied by as much exaggerated flirtation as possible.

FIGURE 4 - All give right hand to partner and starting with right foot execute a grand right and left with hands kept at shoulder level with eight polka steps. The person met on the eighth step becomes the new partner.

FIGURE 5 - All Polka in closed social dance position in a large circle around the room, eight polka steps.

RLF

## FIGURES AT A GLANCE

- Fig. 1 To center and back - women 8 steps, men 8 steps.
- Fig. 2 Pass partners by the right should with 2 polka steps.
- Fig. 3 Two pas de basque steps with new partner and back to partner
- Fig. 4 Grand right and left with 8 polka steps
- Fig. 5 In social dance position 8 polka steps around the room.

Repeat as many times as desired.  
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