

# TRETUR (TRAY-tour)

Norway

Tretur, a threesome reel from the district of Hordaland in western Norway, is a dramatic dance intended to show the various emotions that come into play in a triangle situation. It may be danced by two women and one man or vice-versa. In either case the two are competing for the attention of the one. This competition may be expressed in various ways within the framework of the step-pattern and figures. Here, an element of "free style" comes in. The dance should be performed, not as a "routine", but rather like a drama in miniature, with three actors. Presented by Ingvar Sodal at the 1977 Mendocino Folklore Camp.

Source: Described in "Norske Folkedansar" by Klara Semb, published by Noregs Ungdomslag, Oslo.  
Description by Anders Andersen

Record: NGK. TD-6

Formation: 2 W and 1 M, or 2 M and 1 W, in a circle holding hands at shldr level, or in a line. Initial posn in line facing front, single person in the middle, all holding hands at shldr level.

Steps: Small, quick, loping step-hops; Reel steps (described below)  
Figurering steps I and II (described below)

Character: Sprightly and animated, playful and flirtatious, with mocking change of moods.

## REEL STEP:

Often called "Danish Reel", this step is rhythmically identical to an ordinary step-hop, but with each alternate ft swinging around behind the other to take the step and hop on the other side of said ft, instead of alongside as usual.

## FIGURERING STEPS:

From the French Figuré. The two kinds used in this dance are:

Figurering Step I: Up on the toes. Kick R ft fwd while stretching toe twd floor, then kick L ft, then R, and so on.

### Figurering Step II:

4 quick walking steps L,R,L,R to the L, turn quickly on R ft, and 4 steps in opposite direction; then turn again on R and repeat all as many times as music allows.

## Meas.

### A. RING (step-hops)

1-8 When music starts quickly form a wide circle, holding arms at shldr ht. Starting L, dance 14 step-hops to L, then stamp 3 times L,R,L

1-8 Starting R, 14 step-hops to the R, and stamp R,L,R

### B. "FIGURERING" (Reel steps, Figurering steps 1 and 2)

All form a line along same axis you started out. Assume now that our set has 1 M and 2 W. The M would then face his R-hand W. M's arms crossed on chest, W holds a skirt lightly.

9-16 The person in the cntr has the choice of two steps: either Figurering step I, or Reel step. The person he or she is facing then responds with the other kind. (Thus, if the middle person starts with Reel steps, the other person uses Figurering step I.) Dance 14 steps and stamp L,R,L

9-16 Middle person then quickly turns to his L on L ft, to face person formerly behind his back. Figurering is repeated, but now middle



Tretur, continued...

Meas.

person uses the other kind of steps, and his or her opposite, the alternate kind. 14 steps and stamp R,L,R

All during this time, the person behind the middle person has been walking back and forth, using Figurering step II.

C. FIGURE 8 (walking steps)

17-24 This figure is a chain of three, with a figure-8 floor pattern. The middle person starts by walking to the R of the person he or she is facing at the end of part B, and then turns L to continue the figure-8. The dancer facing the middle person passes him or her and then turns R to continue the figure-8. The third person falls into the chain by following behind the middle person. Each time you walk through the middle, it appears that you walk between the other two dancers. All start L and walk 30 steps, then stamp L,R,L. In styling, the walking steps are light and springy (imagine you are walking on a grass lawn instead of a smooth floor!). M may have arms crossed on chest, or down at his side.

There is some room for individual expression in this figure. Every time the 2 W pass, they express their jealousy. The M flirts with both, alternately, obviously having a hard time making up his mind, and snaps his fingers playfully, etc.

Resume ring as in A, and repeat entire sequence two more times, so that each of the 3 dancers will have an opportunity to be in the middle in part B.

CONCLUSION

1-8 Repeat first 8 meas of part A, 14 step-hops and stamp L,R,L. As you stamp, step into the circle and raise your arms high.