

Tretur fra Hordaland

(Norway)

This is a figure dance for three people, and belongs to the "ril" (reel) family of dances. Ril dances are mostly found along the Norwegian coast, are thought to be quite old, and are probably related to music and dance found in Scotland. Tretur fra Hordaland is widely used in Norway in performances by folk dance groups. It is nearly always performed as a dramatic dance with one man and two women. The two women smile at the man and enjoy his attention. They dislike each other, acting angry and frowning at each other. The dance is described in Klara Semb, *Norske Folkedanser II, Turdansar*, Oslo 1991, ISBN 82-521-3657-5.

Pronunciation:

Music: Norwegian Folk and Figure Dances I, EMI C054-37340 or TD-6; Norsk Grammofonkompani A/S, Oslo. The former is a better recording. The latter is, to my knowledge, out of print but some folk dancers in the U.S. have it. 2/4 meter

Formation: One man and two women in a circle holding hands at shoulder height. These small circles can be anywhere in the room, and have no relationship to either the room directions or the other circles. The dance can also be done with one woman and two men.

Steps: Step-hops: Step L (ct 1); hop on L (ct &). Step alternates. Rhythm should be even (not skips). The steps should be done with slightly bent knees, and tight, controlled movements. When dancing fwd, the steps are exactly in front of one another, along a line. Free ft is placed approx in front of supporting ankle.

Reeling: Step-hops done crossing behind. Cross L behind R (ct 1); hop fwd on L (ct &). Step alternates. The step is stationary.

Changing Feet: For M, bend knees as far as possible with heels still on the ground. Leap onto L, sending R leg out fwd and straight, R ft just off ground and parallel to floor (ct 1); Repeat with opp ftwk (ct 2). There is very little level change. W stand more upright and do the step lightly, leaping with level change.

Meas

Pattern

INTRODUCTION.

FIGURE I. CIRCLE AND BACK

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1-7 | Beginning with L ft, 14 step-hops around to L. Face slightly L throughout. |
| 8 | Facing ctr, 3 stamps L,R,L (cts 1.&.2). |
| 9-16 | Repeat meas 1-8 with opp direction and ftwk. |

FIGURE II. FIGURERING (SETTING)

M crosses arms in front of chest. Each W holds skirt or has hands on hips, thumb fwd and fingers bkwd.

- 1-7 M turns to W on his R. They face, while the other W faces M back. All adjust pos so they are in a line. M chooses between the 2 setting steps: reeling and changing feet. W he is facing answers with the other step. The remaining W walks back and forth: 4 steps facing slightly L, 4 to R, 4 to L, 2 to R.
- 8 All do 3 stamps, L,R,L (cts (1,&,2).
- 9-16 On the 1st ct, M turns 1/2 (either direction) to face the other W. Repeat meas 1-8 with opp ftwk, the 2 W having exchanged roles.

FIGURE III. FIGURE EIGHT (OR REEL OF THREE)

- 1-8 Beginning with L ft, walk 16 steps in a figure eight through the other dancers' places. The M and W facing at the end of Fig II begin by passing L shoulders ("drive on the right"), with the odd W dancing out to her L. Each person follows the person in front of him/her, allowing the 3rd person to pass in between. Arms hang freely at sides; W can hold skirt.
- 9-15 Repeat meas 1-7, ending close together. To end with the 2 W on same side as they started, M does not cross through middle at end.

- 16 3 stamps L,R,L, ending with wt on both ft. Resume starting pos.

The dance is usually done 3 times. If desired, the people can change roles each time through the dance, so that each person dances the part of the M as described above.

The dance ends with Fig I, meas 1-8. Usually, all swing hands in and out of circle on meas 1-7, and bring hands to ctr at shoulder height in meas 8.

Dramatic elements often used with person you don't like: raise nose away from person snootily, shake fist, hands in front of face: thumb on nose—other thumb on little finger, wiggle fingers, try to wrench hand you are holding (or refuse to hold it at all). With person you like: get close and smile sweetly, wave during setting.

Presented by Alix Cordray