

## Shoe the Donkey (Irish Varsouvienne)

Music: The Versouviana Dance; O'Byrne DeWitt record #9-105A

As we related in another article some time ago, it would seem that just about every country has its own version of the ever popular varsouvienne; Ireland is no exception. The version here described is the one danced at many eastern U. S. Irish gatherings; most New York groups omit entirely the waltz sequence, the two mazurka parts being repeated over and over. You will note that the mazurka rhythm is irregular; you will find it much easier to count to the music as shown here and don't worry about musical bars.

Formation: Couples: lady at right side of man, both facing line of dance; man's right hand holds lady's right; left holds lady's left, the right hands above the lefts. ("Skating" position, but a bit higher than usual.) Directions are for man; lady dances counterpart.

- | Step  | Count           |
|---|-----------------|
| (A) Lifting the left foot, at the same time doing a forward skip on the right foot, the left foot is raised inwardly to a position in front of the right shin. Counting rapidly       | 1-2             |
| Step forward on the left foot, counting   | 3               |
| Step forward on the right foot, counting  | 4               |
| (B) Repeat all  | 1-2, 3, 4       |
| Step forward on the left foot, counting   | 3               |
| (C) As in (A) lift left foot, skipping forward on right at the same time and bringing left foot up in front of right shin   | 1-2             |
| Without releasing hands, starting with the left foot, turn inward toward partner with three walking steps so that both face the other direction around the room (clockwise). Counting | 3, 4, 5         |
| Stamp (with emphasis) on the right foot. Count  | 6               |
| (D) Repeat all (A, B, C) in the new direction, starting with other foot.  |                 |
| Then repeat the entire two sequences (A, B, C, D)   |                 |
| (E) Facing counterclockwise and starting by lifting the left foot, repeat (C) of the above. Count   | 1-2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| Facing clockwise and starting with right foot again repeat (C). Count   | 1-2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| (B) is repeated for a total of 4 times. (i.e. you dance 4 times in each direction.)   |                 |
| All now assume closed waltz position and waltz 32 bars.   |                 |