

## Viennese Waltz

(Austria)

**Commentary:** The waltz was a most popular social dance during the early part of the nineteenth century when the two Johann Strausses gave to the world their famous Viennese waltzes. The Viennese Waltz became the traditional waltz at the great courts of Europe and is unique among the many types of waltzes still performed today.

**Formation:** Single circle of couples facing CCW.

**Basic Step:** Basic waltz turn. Two things make the Viennese Waltz distinctive. The first of the three steps in one waltz is much longer than the others, and it is also a slower step. Make sure that when doing the basic waltz turn, the lead steps are always done in the line of direction, never to the R or L side.

### Part I - Basic Waltz Turn

1-8 Couples may come on stage doing this step, or may begin on stage in social-dance position. Dancers use the basic waltz turn, moving in CCW direction rotating CCW as they move. M begins by stepping fwd with the L foot, girl back with the R.

9-16 On the first count of meas 9, they hesitate slightly and continue the basic waltz turn as this time they move in CCW direction rotating CW. M steps forward with R foot, girl back with the L.

### Part II - Rahndejahn

1-8 M begins by stepping back with the R foot, then swings L foot in a sideward arc while pivoting. He brings heel toward R leg with the toe pointing down, ready to step down with the L foot again. The girl uses opposite footwork to do this step, starting back with her R foot. The rahndejahn and basic waltz turn steps are done alternately. While the M does the rahndejahn step, the man does the basic waltz turn helping her to pivot. This step is done in CCW direction while pivoting CCW.

9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 of Part II, using opposite footwork - couples move in CCW direction pivoting CW.

### Part III - ?

1-2 Partners do a two-step into the center of the circle while facing each other. M steps fwd with L foot, girl back with R foot.

3-4 Partners do a two-step out from the center of the circle facing each other. M steps bkwd with R foot, girl fwd with L foot.

5-6 M crosses L foot across R, girl R foot across L foot, partners do one two-step to the M's R.

7-8 Girl turns inward and does a two-step leading L foot across R foot. M crosses R foot over L foot and remaining in that position does a two-step bkwd.

9-10 M crosses L foot across R, girl walks three steps to her R around her partner, unwinding him from "feet crossed" position.

11-12 Partners balance (certé). M steps bkwd with L foot, girl fwd with R foot.

### Part IV - Bow

1-4 Partners face each other and do a four-measure deep bow.

Part V - Leap-Turn

- 1-8 Moving in CCW direction, pivoting CW, couples do, alternately, one waltz turn where first step is elongated and heightened into a smooth leap and then one basic waltz turn. Girl begins by leaping on R foot while man waltzes, starting with L foot. Then girl waltzes while man leaps.
- 9-16 On meas 9 man twirls girl in place under his L arm (with her R arm). Couples then do seven more leap turns. M starts the leap on his L foot, girl waltzes on her R foot.

Part VI - Mexicana (Meas 1-8) and Grapevine (meas 9-16)

- 1-4 M crosses R foot over L and does a two-step in reverse of the LOD, girl crosses L foot over R, and does a two-step in the same direction. When step is completed, partners pivot inward, transferring weight off inside foot, and begin the two-step in the opposite direction - man with his R, girl with her L.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 of Part VI.
- 9-16 In the line of direction, girl turns inward crossing L foot over R, man keeps weight on L foot and steps back with the R. Together they progress alternately facing fwd and bkwd in the LOD; cross R in back of L, step back L, step R in front of L, step back L, etc. When the man is facing fwd, the girl faces bkwd.

Part VII - Lift

- 1-4 Walking four steps in conversation position in the LOD, man starts with L foot, girl with R foot.
- 5-8 Partners face each other and do four slides in the LOD, man starts with his L foot, girl with her R foot.
- 9-16 Partners do one basic waltz turn step in the line of direction CCW, rotating CW. While man continues waltzing, he lifts his partner. Girl keeps R arm down and almost straight, and man uses this arm to assist in his lift. Both couples then waltz again, lift, waltz, lift, etc. Four lifts are executed, separated by one waltz step.

Part VIII - Walk Roll-away

- 1-4 Partners walk in conversation position, four steps in the line of direction.
- 5 Partners do one turn away from each other, men turning CCW, girls turning CW doing one waltz step.
- 6 Hold meas 6, partners looking at each other.
- 7 Partners turn back toward each other, man turning CW, girl CCW.
- 8 Partners hold this measure.
- 9-12 Repeat meas 1-4 of Part VIII.
- 13 Partners turn across each other, girl in front. M turns CW, girl CCW.
- 14 Partners hold this measure, looking at each other.
- 15 Partners roll back across each other, man turning CCW, girl CW.
- 16 Partners hold this measure.

Part IX - Backward Waltz

- 1-6 Partners in Varsouvienne position do six waltzes fwd in the LOD (CCW).  
Partners start with R foot.
- 7-8 M does two waltzes in place while girl changes to L side of partner in  
two waltz steps.
- 9-16 Partners waltz in place bkwd, starting back with the R foot, man acts as  
a pivot.

Part X - Finale

- 1-8 Partners face each other and do eight waltzes in place in social-dance  
position, pivoting CW.
- 9-14 In closed position, couples twirl in place for six measures.
- 15-16 Girl twirls away from partner; they face each other and bow deeply.