

BASQUE GARLAND II - dance for 12

Collected by member of Yorkshire Chandelier in Basque country on holiday

Garland: bare cane garland in horseshoe shape. Bare so that makes a noise when hit together. Garland have handles and a small decoration just above the handles.

Step : done by the Chandelier as a polka step in clogs. Unlikely to be done thus by the Basques.

CHORUS - used at start of dance and after each figure except the last.

Face up - move forward for 4 bars, retire 2 bars so go forward slowly, turn to face and dance 2 bars on spot. Clash garland tops together on first beat of 8th bar. The face-up must be done nearly shoulder to shoulder.

Facing front, fall back away from opposite for 4 bars, approach again for 4 bars, and hit garland tops together on 1st beat of 8th bar.

FIGURES

1. In 4's. First corner make an arch by raising garlands, sloping them away from the body so that the tops rest against each other and there is space for the other two dancers to pass underneath. The arch stands still while the others move round. The other corner pass under the arch, face to face, left shoulder leading and turn to right going round their own opposite, pass under arch again, face to face, right shoulder leading, turn to left, going round neighbour to own place. (8 bars)  
The second corner then make the arch and the first corner goes round, going under, left shoulder leading, face to face and going round to right around their neighbour etc and coming back to place at the end across the set.  
The garlands are clashed with opposite at the end of each 8 bars is at end of reelings.
2. In 4's, in rings. Move forward to form a ring, knuckles touching in ring and polka round once to right, anticlock, 2 bars to move one place. In 8th bar face across to opposite and hit garlands on 1st beat. Form ring again and go once round to left, clockwise and face opposite and hit garland in bar 8.
3. In 4's, dance round a square. Move round to right thus, bar 1 move half a place so that first corner is facing across set and second corner is facing up and down set, bar 2 move on so that now round one place, hit garlands together on 1st beat of bar 2. Keep going for the 8 bars by which time they should be back in place. Repeat to left, clockwise to place again.
4. In 2's, turn partner. Approach opposite so that garlands are laid against each other, knuckles touching right to left etc. turn partner slowly, one revolution in 8 bars and clash garlands together in 8th bar. Repeat going round to left, clockwise and clash on 1st beat of bar 8.
5. Cast. Face opposite and make arches with opposites, garlands touching at tops. Step on spot and clash garlands together on first beat of bars 1, 3, 5 etc.  
After 8 bars, top pair cast to the bottom, take 6 bars to get to bottom and line up but do not join in the clashing till 8 bars up. Rest move up while pairs are casting. On the 3rd bar, the 2nd pair cast from the clash, on the 5th bar the 3rd pair etc. This goes on till the top pair is back at the top and the bottom pair have reached the bottom. The phrasing may need to be altered if only 8 dancers.

EXIT - under the arches from the top.

Each figure takes 16 bars.

**ELNBERHASSET near ASPATRIA, CUBERIA - GARLAND DANCE**

As danced by Threstle's Nest, collected by Sue Hycok

Music: "100 Pipers" and the like.

Step : Polka step throughout the dance. Starting foot the right. Foot in front when moving forward, and foot behind when retiring.

All turns done quickly on the hop in the step so that direction changed as land.

**FACE UP**

All face up. 4 polka steps forward and 4 polkas backward. Done twice through.

In going forward sway garlands from side to side, to left in bar 1, to right in bar 2 etc. Garland is swayed till over to the side and angled about 60 deg from vertical.

Garlands are kept vertical and not swayed when retiring.

**FIGURE ONE**

Face opposite. 4 pas de basque (open sidesteps) - without feet crossing, to right, left, right and left (r l r -) and swing garlands to left, right, left, right, ie opposite way. 2 "small" polka steps forward, garland upright, but leaving room for the bows, bow to opposite. The bows are with the body, not the garland alone - bring the garland horizontal, still keeping the relative position of garland and body. One "bow" takes two bars. Start the move back to place with another "bow" taking the 1st 2 bars. 2 "small" polka steps back to place, garland upright and then 4 sidesteps and sways as before, ie step to right first.

In a bow the dancers continue to look at their partner and not to the side or down. The feet in a bow are stationary and together.

**FIGURE TWO**

Face opposite. Bow twice to opposite in own place - 4 bars. Cross over taking 4 bars - in the first bar approach keeping body facing front; in the second bar pass by the right, turning the body to the right so that the garlands are parallel and move the arms so that the garlands are kept together through the bar; 3rd bar polka onto opposite place, garland upright and body facing across again; 4th bar turn to right to face back, garland upright.

Repeat to place starting with the bows.

**FIGURE THREE**

In 4's, dance round a square. Not quite a right and left through as always pass by right shoulders.

Bars 1-4 opposites cross over as in figure two.

Bars 5-8 change along the sides in the same manner as bars 1-4.

Bars 9-12 face opposite and sidestep and sway 4 times as start of figure 1.

Bars 13-20 two more changes round square to reach own place, danced as bars 1-8

Bars 21-24 as bars 9-12.

There are probably further figures in similar vein. In the meantime dance the sequence twice through ending on a Face-Up.