

Beyond the Basics: More 15th Century Italian Dances

Taught by Lady Helena Hrolfsdottir at Atlantian University

This class covers a selection of dances from 15th and early 16th century dance sources that I happen to like and feel we should dance more often. More information on each dance and my reconstruction can be found my website, <http://gratzioso.net> or by emailing me at penelilady@gmail.com.

L'Angelosa for two (version from the 1517 letter of Johann Cochlaus. There is no extant music so I wrote some.)

Entrance:

- 4 Quadernaria Doubles forward and quick bow
- 1 Quadernaria double backwards and bow
- Repeat the entrance

Flirtation:

- Take right hands, change places with 1 Quadernaria double
- Take 3 doubles away from your partner, look back at them with emotion and moving in a zigzag or tacking pattern
- Return to your partner with a set of contrapassi (3 "fast doubles" or pive and a close)
- Take right hands and bow on the right
- Repeat the flirtation, taking left hands and bowing left instead

Circle:

- Take right hands and circle with 4 fast doubles
- Take left hands and circle with 4 fast doubles

Giove for three in a column (version written by Domenico da Piacenza, dance appears elsewhere as "Jupiter".)

Entrance:

- One behind another enter with 3 quadernaria doubles & a bassadanza voltatonda (2 singles & a ripresa, all right)
- Repeat this entrance

Bassadanza Hey:

-1st man (Front) double right touching right hands with lady (Middle) as they exchange places, then double left touching left hands with the bottom man (End) as they change places; then the lady at the top does double right touching right hands to change places with the bottom man, now in the middle

-All do 2 bassadanza singles and a double forward

-Repeat with the bottom man, now at the head of the set starting the hey so that all are returned to their original places

Piva Hey:

-1st man starts a hey for three by passing right shoulders with the lady in the middle. There are two piva steps per exchange and a total of 9 piva measures

Saltarello:

-All do four measures of saltarello, the lady always forward, while the 1st man does steps forward and two to exchange places with the other man clockwise, the 3rd man doing the same and moving to the head of the group;

-Lady alone does a voltatonda in bassadanza (ss rp all right)

-This is repeated so the men are returned to their original places.

Close:

1st man & lady Reverence; 1st lady and 3rd man Reverence; All face forward

Leoncello for two (version from the 1517 letter of Johann Cochlaus)

Entrance:

-Holding hands, enter with 3 sets of contrapassi (3 fast doubles and a riprese right).

-Man rise, woman rise.

-Man turns over the left shoulder with 1 double.

-Woman rise, Man rise.

-Woman turns over the left shoulder with 1 double.**

Strut:

-Man leaves with 4 singles and 1 double.

-Woman catches up with the same.

Fast Chase:

-Riprese (left, right).

-Man leaves with 1 set of contrapassi.

-Woman catches up with the same.

Turns & Procession: (In Bassadanza tempo)

-Take right hands and circle clockwise with 2 singles & 2 doubles.

-Take left hands and circle counter-clockwise with 2 singles & 2 doubles.

-Riprese (left, right).

-Together forward with 2 singles & 2 doubles.

-Riprese (left, right).

Finale:

-Man rises, woman rises.

Spero for 3 in a row (As written by Guglielmo Ebreo/Giovanni Ambrosio)

Entrance: (In Quadernaria tempo)

- Together, 4 Saltarelli, beating on the first step
- Man (middle) forward with 2 Singles, 1 Double
- Women (sides) forward the same, as they approach he turns halfway over his right shoulder

Opposition:

- Go away from each other with two Saltarelli, beating on the first step, turn to face
- (tempo change to saltarello) Approach and pass with 4 Saltarelli, turn to face
- Riprese Left, Right

Reconciliation: (in Bassadanza tempo)

- Reverence Left
- Single backwards left, Forwards with 3 Riprese Left, Right, Left flanking
- Women turn to face in a line with the man again
- Ripresa Left, Voltatonda bassadanza (2 Singles, 1 Riprese over the Right)
- Reverence Left

Circles: (in Piva tempo)

- Man and Woman 1 Circle Right hand with 3 Pive
- Man and Woman 2 Circle Left hand with 3 Pive

Finale:

- Man then Women Rise
- Man then Women single turn

Voltate in ca Rosina for 3 in a row (As written by Giovanni Ambrosio)

Entrance: (In Quadernaria)

- 2 Doubles forward, 2 Doubles in a large circle
- Man (middle) leaves with 2 Singles, 1 Double
- Women (sides) catch up with 2 Singles, 1 Double, Man turns halfway as they approach

Opposition:

- 2 Saltarelli away from each other, turn to face
- Riprese Left, Right, turn single, 4 Continenze

Reconcile:

- Approach with 2 Singles, 1 Double start Left
- Back 1 Double start Right
- Turn over the left shoulder, 4 Singles; Ripresa Right, Reverence Left, 4 Continenzie

Circles and Hey:

- Man and Woman 1, Right hand turn with 4 Pive
- Man and Woman 2, Left hand turn with 4 Pive
- Hey for 3 in piva (literally “a snake”)