

## Eleanor's Dance with Ribbons

*(Il ballo d'Eleanor con quatro Fettuccie per cinque)*

### **"Fettuccine for Five"**

Many of the courts of the major city-states of 15th century Italy hosted a dance master and musicians. Learning to dance was seen as one of the important skills of the nobility, demonstrating grace and poise not accessible to the common folk. Often, when a child of the household was in their late teens and judged skilled enough by the dance teacher, a dance would be written for them to perform at a major feast to show their accomplishment of this skill. This is Eleanor's dance - and although it's taken her a little longer to be accomplished than most - she is excited to show her abilities. The inspiration came from her asking me to find more 5 person dances (we often have an odd number at practice) and us watching others dance Tesara at a University.

I choreographed this dance and composed the music in the spring of 2019. The dance is intended to be in the style of 15th century Italian *balli*, such as those choreographed by Maestro Domenico da Piacenza or Maestro Giovanni Ambrosio. My intention is for this to be taught and shared around the SCA as long as it is attributed to me. Much more detailed information, including the music, can be found at my website <http://gratzioso.net/fettuccine5>. I am assuming in the directions that you know the names of relevant dance steps- but there is a page on my website about how to do the relevant steps. Assume each section of steps starts on the left foot unless directed otherwise.

### **Directions**

**Starting position:** in a line, each person has passed their ribbon (held in right hand) to the person in front of them (holding in left hand) with "Eleanor" at the front of the line. She does not have her own ribbon, only the end the next person's. I will refer to the leader of the line as "Eleanor" and the others by their starting positions in line, #2 through #5.

#### **Entrance** (*Music Section: A1, 7 measures*)

- As a line, 8 *pive* into the center of the room (*4 measures*)
- Continue with 4 more *pive* to make a shape where #2 through #5 make the corners of a square and "Eleanor" is between #2 and #5 (*2 measures*)
- "Eleanor" drops the ribbon and takes 1 closed double (*1 quaternaria doppio*) to the center of the square leaving the followers in a square (*1 measure*)

#### **Arches** (*Music Section: B1, 2 measures*)

- "Eleanor" does a *voltatonda del gioioso* (slow turn)
- At the same time, #2 and #3 take 2 singles (*2 sempii*) towards each other, take the end of each other's ribbons, and take 2 singles (*2 sempii*) back, creating ribbon arches
- #4 and #5 do the same as #2 and #3

#### **Solo** (*Music Section: A2, 5 measures*)

- "Eleanor" does 9 *pive* in a figure 8 through the arches, starting forward, then left, then back through the left arch, then through the right arch, then back and around and forward to place

#### **Theft!** (*Music Section: B2, 4 measures repeated*)

- "Eleanor" takes 2 small steps (*2 continenze*) left under the left arch (*1 measure*)
- "Eleanor" takes a ribbon end from #2 and #3 (left hand ribbon) one at a time (*1 measure*)
- "Eleanor" takes 2 small steps (*2 continenze*) right back to center (*1 measure*)
- "Eleanor" and #2 and #3 *riverenza* (bow) to each other (*1 measure*)
- \*\* Repeat the whole section with right arch and persons #4 and #5 \*\*

**PinWheel** (*Music Section: C1, 5 measures repeated*)

- There is 1 measure in the music for a little hop and turning to face the correct direction
- "Eleanor" circles in place while #2-5 do 4 *saltarelli* in a clockwise direction (*4 measures*)
- Music repeats: 1 measure to switch ribbons to left hands and half-turn to face the other direction
- "Eleanor" circles in place while #2-5 do 4 *saltarelli* in a counter-clockwise direction (*4 measures*)

**Drama** (*Music Section: B3, 4 measures*)

- "Eleanor" does a *movimento* and drops the ribbon ends (*1 measure*)
- #2-#5 *movimento* and transfer ribbons back to their left hands (*1 measure*)
- "Eleanor" does a closed double (*quaternaria doppio*) forwards out of the center of the square (*1 measure*)
- #2-#5 turn over the left shoulder (*volta*) while waving their ribbons (*1 measure*)

**Assemble the Snake** (*Music Section: C2, 5 measures*)

- There is 1 measure in the music for a little hop and turning to face the correct direction (*1 measure*)
- #2 (back left of the square) takes 1 *saltarello* to #5 (back right) and hands them the end of their ribbon (*1 measure*)
- #5 (back right) takes 1 *saltarello* to #3 (front left) and hands them the end of their ribbon (*1 measure*)
- #3 (front left) takes 1 *saltarello* to #4 (front right) and hands them the end of their ribbon (*1 measure*)
- #4 (front right) takes 1 *saltarello* to "Eleanor" and hands them the end of their ribbon (*1 measure*)

\*\*Note that the new line order is Eleanor->#4->#3->#5->#2.

**Piva Snake** (*Music Section: A3, 7 measures*)

This section takes place in 12 *pive* total

- The line starts moving forward until it has straightened out, about 4 *pive*
- Piva snake: "Eleanor" turns over the right shoulder and goes under the ribbon between #4 and #3, then continues weaving in and out of the line while doing *pive*
- Line follows until all are through and going the other direction and the music ends