

Introduction to 15th Century Italian Dance

Lord Lorenzo Petrucci (ben@houseofpung.net) - RUM 2008

Rostiboli Gioioso (for couples)

Bassadanza Time (slow 6/4):

A: Riprese left and right.

Man leaves with two singles and two doubles, turning to face the woman at the end.

Riprese left and right.

Man returns with two singles and two doubles.

A section repeats, with the woman leaving and returning.

B: Riprese left and right.

Together, go forward with two singles and three doubles.

Voltatonda with two singles (right and left) and a ripresa right.

B section repeats.

Saltarello Time (fast 6/8):

Do 16 saltarelli, together or apart, as you choose.

Quadernaria Time (fast 4/4):

Man does a movimento.

Woman does a movimento.

Man goes a double (in whatever direction he chooses).

Woman does a movimento.

Man does a movimento.

Woman goes a double.

This section repeats, with the couple coming back together with the last double.

Entire dance repeats, with the woman doing each figure first.

Gelosia (for sets of three couples)

Couples begin in a line facing the head of the hall.

8 saltarelli forward.

Man 1 does 3 contrapassi around woman 1 to end facing woman 2.

Man 2 does a saltarello into man 1's place.

Man 1 does 3 contrapassi around woman 2 to end facing woman 3.

Man 3 does a saltarello into man 2's place.

Man 1 does a saltarello behind woman 3 into man 3's place.

8 pive forward.

Couple 1 voltatonda with a double, ending facing each other.

Couple 2 do the same.

Couple 3 do the same.

Take right hands, exchange places with 3 sempii.

Take left hands, go back to place with 3 sempii.

Dance repeats 2 more times until all men are back to place.

Petit Riense (for sets of three dancers)

16 pive forward.

Person 1 does 4 pive.

Person 2 catches up with 4 pive.

Person 3 does the same.

Person 1 goes forward a double.

Person 2 catches up with a double.

Person 3 does the same.

1 and 2 riverenza.

2 and 3 riverenza.

All riverenza.

Double left backwards away from each other.

Double right back together.

Continenze left and right.

Voltatonda left.

Repeat until music ends, usually 2 or 4 times.

Step Descriptions

Doppio ("double" – pl. *doppi*)

This step takes a full measure of music. In *quadernaria* time, this is a simple double. In *bassadanza* time, the steps fall on beats 1, 3, and 4 of the measure, and the second step is somewhat shorter and quicker than the first and third.

Sempio ("single" – pl. *sempii*)

This is a single step that takes half a measure of music. Do not bring the feet together at the end of this step.

Ripresa (pl. *riprese*)

This step is reconstructed as a double sideways.

Continenza (pl. *continenze*)

This step is a single sideways.

Saltarello (pl. *saltarelli*)

This step is a double with a small hop at the end. It may occur in either *saltarello* or *quadernaria* time.

Piva (pl. *pive*)

This is a very quick double, and usually occurs in *piva* time.

Voltatonda (whole turn)

This is a turn all the way around, taking a full measure of music, usually with two singles or a double. When starting on the left foot, turn to the left, and vice versa.

Mezavolta (half turn)

This is a turn halfway around, often happening on the last beat of another figure.

Movimento (pl. *movimenti*)

This is a small movement of some sort, and is a good opportunity to strut or flirt.

Riverenza

This is a bow or curtsy (reverence), done by moving one foot backward slightly and bending at the knees, keeping the torso upright.

For more information and links to music for these dances, visit the Renaissance Dance Database at <http://www.rendancedb.org>