

CIRCLE MAZURKA

Chor. Paul Boizot, 2018. Music "La Paire De Saulxures", from the album La Bande Des 5, by Grands-Mères et Soufflets (France); a CD was available from them but seemed later to be sold out, however the tune has been posted on youtube. Or you could try any other mazurka tune of a similar tempo. There is a demonstration video of this dance on my youtube channel (paulboizot), which is also linked to from www.paulboizot.co.uk/videos.htm.

The dance uses one basic step pattern from a couples mazurka (6 steps in 3/4 with a lift on step 3), but takes it into some different configurations to suit the circle format. The lifts can be done in a variety of ways as you wish, or could even be made into a light touch at some points, but my default is to do small lifts.

Some dancers have said that the lift in a mazurka should be on the second beat, not the third. I am no expert on the mazurka, but it seems both versions are danced. I have various dance notes with the lift on three, and that is also the case in these videos;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OuC-60YW9A&list=RDR6FteMBI5dc&index=8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6FteMBI5dc>

In this video, I think I see some couples lifting on two, and some on three;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0csEHKPBno> .

Formation; circle or open circle. Rhythm 3/4. The dance fits the musical phrases. Start at the beginning of any suitable phrase, e.g. after 8 bars. But make sure you start on the strong beat – if you start at the beginning of the music, there are three short notes before the first beat of the bar. Arms V.

Measure 1; \rightarrow R, L, lift R;

Measure 2; R, L, R;

Measure 3; \uparrow L, R fairly close to left, lift L;

Measure 4; \downarrow L, small steps back to line of dance R, L;

Measure 5; \rightarrow sway R, \leftarrow sway L, lift R;

Measure 6; \leftarrow Rxf, sL, Rxb;

Measure 7; \leftarrow facing slightly diagonally to the left of the line of dance & moving back slightly diagonally out from the line of dance L, R, lift L;

Measure 8; \rightarrow still facing slightly diagonally to the left of the line of dance step forward L, step on ball of R just behind left and raise up, replace L where it was or very slightly forward (so these last three steps are not a slip-step – only the first step travels).

It does not matter too much about the diagonal directions in measures 7 and 8; they just seem easier to me than facing fully \rightarrow round the circle, given where you end up after the Rxb step at the end of measure 6.

Paul Boizot revised 28.01.25