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The Dance Magazine

Monthly magazine for ballroom-dancers



The First Anniversary!

This Dance-magazine is a monthly magazine made for and made by ballroom-dancers. Every month you can read about different subjects all concerning ballroom-dancing. We also give you the opportunity to put your add or messages in it. You can send them to me by e-mail.

The Dance-magazine is an edition from Fred Bolder's Ballroom Site

Url : <http://www.xs4all.nl/~fghb/ballroom.htm>

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You can download this magazine as a Word-file for free.

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Fred & Miranda during the Dutch Championships in Slagharen



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Slow and Quick

By: Fred

Because of my musical background, I usually compare dancing with playing an instrument. Sometimes, this can be very confusing. We are now working on the Viennese Waltz. Our teacher counts slow - quick - quick, but we are just dancing on the 1, 2 and 3. He told me we do that, because the rhythm is like that. Of course, the time between the 3 counts is the same. If you listen to a waltz, you usually hear a bass with a long duration (almost the whole count). The chords on the counts 2 and 3 have a short duration. It looks to me that the terms Slow and Quick tell something about the time you should take to dance them and not about the moment you make a step compared to the step you made earlier. I asked several people what Slow and Quick really mean. I think that dance teachers use these terms to show the way you should dance the step. Well, it doesn't really matter whether your dance teacher says Slow or Quick. You know how to dance it. It will go without any problems, when you listen to the music. I also asked my question at the site dancetalk:

<http://www.dancetalk.com>

You have to ask your question in English. I received a very clear answer. It is nice to ask a question here. Everybody can answer. Sometimes you receive an answer from several different people. Not everybody agrees, but you can learn a lot from it. There are also other subjects discussed. Read the story below.

Question:

Hallo Jonathan,

I am confused about the exact meaning of the terms Quick and Slow. Since I'm also a musician, I compare dancing with music. I always thought that the terms Quick and Slow stood for the time between the steps. We are now learning the Viennese Waltz and my teacher counts Slow - Quick - Quick, but the steps are taken on the normal 1 - 2 - 3 counts. If you listen to a waltz, you can hear a bass on the first count with a long duration. On the counts 2 - 3 there are often chords with a short duration. In this case it looks like the terms are used for the duration. You take more time to do the first step compared to the other two steps. Can you tell me more about this?

Answer:

In the strictest sense of the words, "slow" and "quick" are supposed to refer to very specific beat values: 2 and 1, respectively (or, for us musician types, that's half or quarter note).

So your teacher is not using slow and quick in the literal sense, but more to express the idea that the first step of the measure should be drawn out slightly.

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Slow and Quick (continuation)

By: Fred

Since there are only 3 beats, you can't literally have slow-quick-quick (which mathematically adds up to 4), but you can interpret rhythms by stretching certain beats and squeezing others. In other words, you don't necessarily take all three steps exactly right at the top of each beat. Some steps may land slightly behind the beat.

This is similar to the way a jazz musician plays. A jazz musician lays back on the beat in such a way that the melody or rhythm "grooves" with a very human and musical feel. Dancers also stretch and squeeze beats for a more artistic and musical interpretation.

There's also a matter of logistics... We still have to bow to the almighty laws of physics as they pertain to the human body. Certain constructs of human body movement dictate how fast or slow (in literal time) we can take a particular action. And we have, out of necessity, formed our dance techniques around these rules.

With Viennese, I believe it's more the physical necessity, rather than the artistic interpretation of the music, that causes us to draw out the 1 and squeeze the 2 and 3.

It takes a certain amount of physical time to prepare and then execute a really good forward driving walk with swinging action. In fact, the Viennese Tempo does not quite allow us all of the time we need to execute that perfect walk. So we take measures to insure that we get as much time as possible, like lowering sooner, not rising as much as we do in other dances, using momentum from previous the step and, as you noted, lengthening the time of the first step and borrowing that time from steps 2 and 3.

The most important thing to understand about this is that you spend all of the necessary time to prepare, execute, and then follow through the forward (or backward) step on count 1. If you do this well, then the timing of the steps you mentioned will naturally result.

I hope this helps.

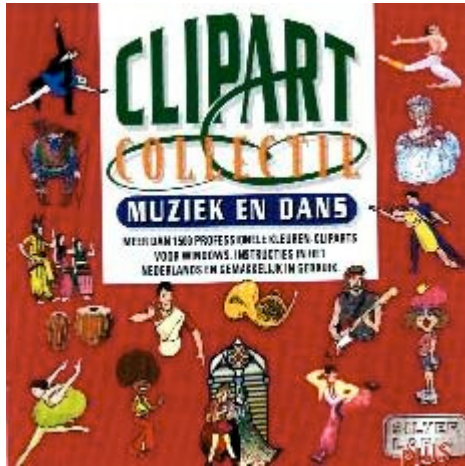
Sincerely,
Jonathan Atkinson

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Dance Clipart

By: Fred Bolder

Perhaps you wonder where I get the pictures for the front-page of this magazine. I took most of these pictures from the clipart cd-rom which you can see below.



Clipart Collectie Muziek en Dans

Contents: Dance and music related vector clipart

On this cd-rom you can find a lot of high quality WMF (Windows Meta File) vector images. You can scale these pictures without losing quality. It is very easy to use the pictures in Word.

Of course you can find clipart on the internet, but dance-clipart is very hard to find. Here are some sites:

Fred Bolder's Ballroom Site - Clipart

<http://www.xs4all.nl/~fghb/clipart.htm>

The clipart part of my site

The Dutch Ballroom Server

<http://www.tdbs.is.nl>

Here you can find a lot of bitmap pictures

ClipArtXtras

<http://www.clipartxtras.com/>

Search in the search-engine for the word "dancers"

Square Dance Clipart catalogue

<http://fly.hiwaay.net/~lshields/caindex.htm>

Also pictures of ballroom dancing

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Lisette dancesportarticles

By: Fred

Because my sister needed new dancing shoes, we decided to take a look at Lisette dancesportarticles in Bergen op Zoom. We had never been there before. We went to Bergen op Zoom by train. After that we took the bus (line 22) and we stopped at busstop Gagelboslaan.

Lisette dancesportarticles
Laagsehoeflaan 69
4623 TL Bergen op Zoom
Tel: 0031-164-234207

The Laagsehoeflaan is a side street of the Gagelboslaan. But we could not find a store. We passed number 69 and it turned out to be a normal house. In the garden there was a woman standing and she asked us if we came to buy dancing shoes. On the window we saw a promotion sign. We went upstairs and arrived in a room full of dancing-shoes and -dresses. We had plenty of choice. She also had a lot to tell about dancing. She used to dance herself. She sells shoes of Diamant Dance Shoes.

<http://www.diamant-dance-shoes.com>

I also have dancing shoes of Diamant and I like them a lot. If you want to go to Lisette dancesportarticles, it is best to call first, to know for sure that she is home. She does not have a real shop, because that is too expensive. A shop for dancesportarticles is different from a bakery. Besides dancing shoes she also sells dancing dresses, etc. She used to make dancing dresses herself, but she quit that. At least she knows a lot about it.

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The tango of Argentine

By: Miranda

In the 16th century a Portuguese traveller discovered Argentine, but only at the end of the 19th century the European discovered the tango of Argentine. This tango was born in Rio de la Plata in Buenos Aires and Montevideo. The many emigrants of the world and also the different cultures of the immigrants, are the reasons why the tango of Argentine has so many different faces. This tango was the heritage of the 'normal' people of Argentine and in the old days, it was danced a lot at the whore-houses. During the day the men practiced the tango with each other, so they could dance it perfectly in the whore-houses in the evenings.

About 14 years ago, a small group of European brought the tango of Argentine to Europe. The Netherlands was one of the first countries. Dutch teachers in the tango of Argentine often travelled to Argentine to bring back different techniques of the tango of Argentine. They also brought Argentine 'maestro's' to the Netherlands to teach the complex movements of this dance. Some famous maestro's are: Roberto and Melina Brufman, Mariano Frumbioli and Cicilia Gonzalez, Rafael Remires and Komala. The tango of Argentine was changed into the European culture and therefore a new dance was born, the tango as we learn it at the dancing lessons: the European tango.

Worldwide the tango of Argentine is considered to be the most romantic dances of all, although most people only know the rumba as the dance of romance. The tango of Argentine has many different faces: modest, exploring, charming, passion, cold, playful or dared. Most of the time, only people who are interested in the tango of Argentine see these faces.

The popularity of the tango of Argentine is growing. In the Netherlands we already have 30 tango schools, that's a school where people only dance the tango. The tango is for the younger and the elder, but at present time, most of the time, only the elder people dance this tango. The tango of Argentine can be divided into three groups: the tango, the tango-waltz (a combination of the tango and the slow waltz) and the tango-melona (this is the faster tango, more like the cha cha cha). You can also departure the tango into three different styles: the Milonguero (danced in the salons), the Espectaculo (danced on stage) and a combination of these two. Thanks to these departures you will have some variety during the tango lessons, but you dance tango all night.

Our experience

If you really want to judge a dance, you should try to dance it, so we had a try-out lesson. We did not really know what to expect, we assumed it was like the European tango, like we learned at our dancing school. This turned out to be a wrong idea. The music is the same, but the way of making your movements is different. At the European tango you make strong staggato moves and you try to keep your head in one line with your body to make a perfect line. But at the tango of Argentine you stand with your top towards each other instead of with your hips and the movements are all very soft.

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The tango of Argentine (continuation)

By: Miranda

Our teacher told us you had to express yourself and your tango should show passion, sensuality and intimacy and there had to be a perfect match between the man and the woman. Improvisation and feeling are keywords in this. We tried to express this in our tango, but we both had the feeling you could express this feeling better in a rumba. This probably has to do with the fact that they teach you it like that at the dancing schools. The perfect match between each other was no problem, because at the normal dancing lessons it is also about the match between the man and the woman.

During this try-out lesson, we learned the basis of the tango of Argentine. It is pretty simple and goes like this (steps for the man): right behind, left aside, right front (besides the lady), left front, place right beside left, left in front, right aside, left close (now you are standing ahead of your lady again). While the man placed his right foot beside his left foot, the lady should cross here left over her right foot.

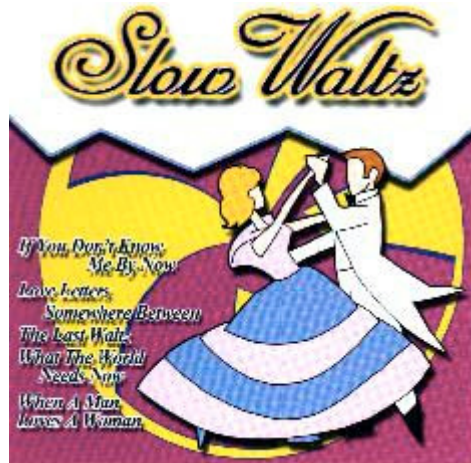
One foot should be dragged to the other, but without making a sound!

We both enjoy the European tango much more, because it shows more action. The tango of Argentine is too 'sweet' for a tango.

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It takes two

I have discovered a new serie dance cd's. At this moment the cd's are available in many cd shops. The music is not super, but sounds nice. All songs are good for dancing. The following dances are available. Rock & Roll, Slow Fox, Samba, Tango, Slow Waltz, Quickstep & Foxtrot, Rhumba, Jive, Cha Cha en Mambo.



It takes two

Contents: 15 instrumental songs on each cd

Price: 9,95 DFL

I have found another nice serie. Next month you can read more about this.

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Nice links

Argentine Tango Performances

<http://www.sanfranciscotango.com/serv03.htm>

Download a video clip of an Argentijnse tango

Argentine Tango in Southern California

<http://home.att.net/~larrydla/index.html>

Online Argentine tango lessons

Margie's ballet pagina

<http://members.tripod.lycos.nl/ballet/>

Nice site about ballet

Dance Clip Art

<http://www.aaaclipart.com/dance/index.html>

Dance clipart

Peter's Ballroom Dancing Page

<http://www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Disco/6688/>

Nice big pictures

List of books on dancing

<ftp://ftp.std.com/nonprofits/dance/books/ballroom.txt>

Books about ballroom dancing

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Nice links (continuation)

Jayde

<http://www.jayde.com/cgi-bin/directory.cgi?title=Dance&query=dance+dancing>

Dance directory

Sylvie Dance Page

http://maxpages.com/sylviewebpage/Home_ANGLAIS

A lot of information about ballroom dancing

2 Left Feet

<http://www.2leftfeet.net/>

Online video danslessons

Salsa Pagina

<http://salsa.pagina.nl>

Salsa links

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Dance music

Newest songs

Dansen aan zee	Blof	Viennese Waltz
It's my life	Bon Jovi	Cha Cha Cha
Let's get loud	Jennifer Lopez	Cha Cha Cha
Oops! I did it again	Britney Spears	Quickstep
Uncle John from Jamaica	Vengaboys	Quickstep
You sang to me	Marc Anthony	Rumba

