

# FREESTYLE MAZURKA FIGURES

Nineteenth century mazurka figures that may be directed by the set's head couple

Richard Powers

*Note: the second-most experienced couple should be at the right-side position.*

## THE REUNION OF COUPLES

*Henri Cellarius (1847) #83*

- Head couple advances to the right-side couple and CIRCLE LEFT hands-4;
- Head gent frees his L hand and moves on to the next (bottom) couple and CIRCLE LEFT hands-6;
- He does the same to the next couple to CIRCLE LEFT hands-8;
- All CIRCLE RIGHT to places. Optional tour sur place & holubiec.

## AN OPENING FIGURE

*from many sources*

- Head couple advances to the center and tours sur place;
- They advance to the right side couple and CIRCLE LEFT hands-4, THEN CIRCLE RIGHT;
- They leave that couple there and LADIES CHAIN with the next couple and CHAIN BACK;
- Pass RIGHT AND LEFT THROUGH and BACK with the last couple, then they return to their places.

## CIRCLE-FOUR AND ARCH THROUGH

*Stefan Bilsky*

- Head couple advances to the right-side couple and CIRCLE LEFT hands-4;
- The head gent and lady form an arch between themselves and pull the other couple through, into the center of the set (head couple takes their place);
- Second, third and fourth couples repeat the figure in turn.
- All promenade around the set to regain original places, tour sur place & holubiec.

## PIERCED CIRCLE

*Stefan Bilsky*

- All circle left and right;
- Telling all to retain hands, head couple charges fwd to the opposite side, bringing the circle with them. They urge an arch between the opposite couple, then dive under the arch;
- The head gent turns left with his line while his partner turns right with her line. The circle rejoins when the head dancers return to places (the bottom couple turns under their own arch).

## SOLO PROMENADE

*a common figure*

The head couple promenades all the around the set (or around several sets) then advances into the center of the circle with tour sur place & holubiec. Other couples follow their example in turn.

## FOLLOW THE LEADER

*"A Man of Fashion" (1844)*

- All promenade around the set;
- The lead couple promenades anywhere, even out of the room, and others will follow.

## THE LABYRINTH

*Cellarius #78*

- All circle left and continue to the left;
- Head gent frees his L hand and heads inward to form a spiral;
- When he reaches the center, the lead couple promenades out down the spiral alley, with other couples following as they, in turn, reach the center.

### **THE GRACES**

*Henry Whale (1836) and Cellarius #63*

- Head couple advances to the center, tour sur place & holubiec, ending with lady in gent's left hand (or he simply passes his partner to his left hand during the promenade)
- Head couple advances to right side lady and takes her L hand with his R. The trio promenades with uncrossed hands around the set (possibly out of the set, returning back to the center);
- Lead gent stamps at the end of the promenade and both ladies pirouette quickly in places (turning away to the outsides) to place their free hands "in attitude" on his shoulders;
- He takes the ladies by their waists and the three turn CCW in place;
- He passes the side lady under his arm to her partner. Other couples follow their example in turn.

### **THE GRACES**

*another common variation*

- Head couple advances to the center;
- He passes her to his left side but he retains the handhold (his R hand) as he turns to face the right-side couple. They advance to the side lady and take her hands (offered open and uncrossed);
- The trio promenades with & gent's hands crossed in front of himself and the ladies' hands taken behind his back:
- He stops (possibly with a stamp or heel-click) and stoops over as the ladies continue forward, over his head. He stands up to form a cloverleaf handhold, and all circle left;
- The head couple backs the side lady to her place, turns to face their original place, and promenades home.

### **THE UNINTERRUPTED CHAINS**

*Cellarius #70*

- All promenade around the set, or around the hall,
- The promenade file heads directly into the set and stops (in a straight line);
- All back away from partners a pace or two as the lead couple starts to "strip the willow" (as in Sir Roger de Coverly) down the line. When they reach the bottom, the next couple follows.

### **HANDKERCHIEF TOSS**

One lady with a handkerchief enters the circle; All gents encircle her with a shoulder hold and circle left. She tosses the handkerchief into the air. The gent who catches it promenades with her.

### **THE CHASE**

*Whale figure #3*

- Head couple promenades, he drops to genuflexions, arises and promenades again;
- His partner flies from him and weaves through the other couples, passing alternately in front and behind. He chases her. He catches her and also takes the corner lady with his free hand;
- The trio promenades around the set. The gent drops again to one knee and arches over-and-under around himself, crossing his hands over his head. All three tour sur place as in Whale's Graces.

### **THE FINAL ROUND**

*Cellarius #39*

- All circle left and right;
- Head couple advances to the center and promenades, possibly with intricate steps. He escorts away from the set (she leaves) and returns alone.
- He takes another (any) lady and promenades with her around, then out of, the set. He leaves.
- She takes another gent of her choosing and so on until all have retired.