

2026 George Washington Ball Dance Instructions

Barbarini's Tambourine **longways duple minor** **Walsh 1745**
2/4, D (as danced in Williamsburg)

- A1 1-8 1st corners cast left around neighbors and dance a half figure 8 to end in each other's position (pass left shoulder in the center and dance right shoulder around partner)
- A2 1-8 2nd corners cast right around partners (now standing next to them) and dance a half figure 8 to end in each other's position (pass right shoulder in the center and dance left shoulder around neighbor)
- B1 1-4 All step back a single, come forward, cross over, and turn single away from neighbor into . . .
- 5-8 Neighbors back-to-back along the sides
- 9-12 Partners back-to-back across the set
- B2 1-8 Beginning with partner, four changes of rights and lefts
- 9-12 Partners two-hand turn

The Bishop **longways triple minor** **Thompson 1780**
4/4, A (Keller/Shimer interpretation)

- A1 1-8 M1 cast to 2nd place as M2 moves up; M1 set to W3 and they two-hand turn once round
- A2 1-8 W1 cast to 2nd place as W2 moves up; W1 set to M3 and they two-hand turn once round
- B1 1-4 3s dance right shoulder once round each other WHILE the 2s (at the top) gate the 1s up the center and around back to 2nd place
- 5-8 All circle 6 halfway
- B2 1-4 2s (now at the bottom) dance right shoulder once round each other WHILE the 3s (at the top) gate the 1s up the center and around back to 2nd place
- 5-8 All circle 6 halfway

The Fine Companion **4-couple square/round** **Playford 1670**
6/8, Dm

Part 1

- A1 1-4 All taking hands, dance forward a double and back
- 5-8 Partners set and turn single
- A2 1-8 Repeat A1
- B1 1-4 Men forward a double to the center; as the men fall back, the women advance to the center
- 5-8 As the women fall back, the men advance to the center; men circle once round and fall back to place
- B2 1-8 Repeat B1 with the women advancing first and circling

Part 2

- A1 1-8 Partners side right, set and turn single
A2 1-8 Partners side left, set and turn single
B1 1-4 Head couples forward a double to meet; as the heads fall back, the side couples advance to meet
5-8 As the side couples fall back, the heads advance; head couples circle once round and fall back to place
B2 1-8 Repeat B1, with side couples meeting first and circling

Part 3

- A1 1-8 Partners arm right, set and turn single
A2 1-8 Partners arm left, set and turn single
B1 1-8 Men advance to the center, turn to face out, circle 4 counter-clockwise, and go out to places, while the women skip clockwise around the outside of the set (Note: Everyone is circling to their own left.)
B2 1-8 Repeat B1 with the women making the outward-facing ring and circling clockwise while the men skip counter-clockwise around the outside of the set (Note: Everyone is circling to their own right.)

La Gavre 6/8, D

longways duple minor IMPROPER

Trappeniers 1777

- A 1-8 Dance right hands across and left hands across
B 1-8 1s lead down the center, lead back to the top (skipping), and cast to 2nd place (2s moving up and turning away from each other to face out)
C 1-4 1s split the 2s to dance around neighbor (M1 and W2 go round each other by the right as W1 and M2 go round each other by the left)
5-8 Neighbors switch shoulders to dance round in the other direction (M1 and W2 by the left, W1 and M2 by the right)
D 1-4 All set forward to partner and turn single out to place
5-8 Partners join right hands and “Bernard Bentley” allemande: partners raise joined arms and ladies move forward a double and back as the men dance clockwise around partner

The Irish Howle 4/4, F

longways duple minor

Young 1726

- A 1-4 W2 hey with the 1s, passing M1 by the left to begin
5-8 M2 hey with the 1s, passing W1 by the right to begin
B 1-2 1st corners cross passing left shoulder and loop left to face in, then 2nd corners cross passing right shoulder and turn right, into . . .
3-4 Single file clockwise halfway round (all are now home)
5-6 Partners two-hand turn once round
7-8 1s (long) cast into 2nd place as 2s lead up and turn out into 1st place

Leslie's Valentine
6/8, G

longways duple minor

Scott Higgs 2001

- A1 1-4 W1 set advancing to M2 (who admires). Both turn single.
5-8 W1 cast down the outside and dance across the set into M2 position; M2 follows (dancing diagonally through the set and casting off into W2 position). W2 moves up to accommodate.
- A2 1-4 All face partner (on the side of the set): set and turn single
5-8 All single-file circle to the left 3 places (this puts the 2s above and the 1s below)
- B1 1-4 1s dance a "mad robin" figure through the 2s: W1 dance up the middle and down the outside as partner dances up the outside and down the middle
5-8 1s two-hand turn once round (ending in the middle of a line of 4 facing up), WHILE the 2s two-hand turn halfway and cast onto the ends of the line
- B2 1-4 Line of 4 lead up a double and fall back
5-8 Staying in the line of 4, all set; 2s gate the 1s up and around to progressed places

Mendocino Redwood
6/8, Dm

longways duple minor

**Mary Devlin, Bob Fraley,
& Elizabeth Zekley 2005**

- A1 1-4 All up a double and back
5-8 2s half figure eight up through the 1s
- A2 1-4 All down a double and back
5-8 1s half figure eight down through the 2s
- B1 1-8 Right-hands across and then left-hands across
- B2 1-2 Dancers in 2nd corner position (M1 & W2) change by left shoulder
3-4 Dancers in 1st corner position (M2 & W1) change by right shoulder
5-8 All two-hand turn partner once round and end facing up

Note: the choreographers suggest skip-change step for the half figure eights

Michael and All Angels
3/4, Am

longways duple minor

Fried deMetz Herman 1991

- A1 1-2 1st corners dance round each other by the right shoulder (6 counts)
3-4 1st corners cast left around neighbor into corner's position
5-8 1st corners meet in the middle to left-hand turn once around, then release and fall back into each other's places
- A2 1-8 2nd corners repeat, going left-shoulder round each other and turning by the right hand. All end progressed and improper
- B1 1-2 Right-hand star halfway
3-4 1st corners (M1 & W2) change places with two chasse (side) steps, passing face-to-face and changing hands
5-6 Left-hand star halfway
7-8 All turn single right, opening out into . . .
- C 1-4 Single-file circle (clockwise) three places, ending proper
5-8 Continuing the momentum, partners dance a clockwise half poussette
- D 1-2 Partners balance forward and back
3-4 1s cast off as the 2s move up

Midnight Ramble
2/2, D

longways duple minor

Thompson 1773

- A1 1-4 1s clap, cross, and cast to 2nd place, 2s moving up
5-8 1s two-hand turn once-and-a-half
A2 1-4 2s clap, cross, and cast to 2nd place, 1s moving up
5-8 2s two-hand turn once-and-a-half. All are now home.
B1 1-4 1s cross and cast, 2s moving up
5-8 1s half figure 8 up through the 2s
B2 1-8 Starting with partner, four changes of rights and lefts

Minuet

1-couple

Gail & Lee Ticknor, interp.

A simplification of "Minuet Ordinaire," attributed to Rameau

- 4 bars Introduction: Honor the Presence; Honor partner
8 bars Facing Presence with inside hands joined, take two minuet steps forward and two steps to turn halfway (man backing up)
8 bars Take two minuet steps forward (away from Presence) and two steps to turn halfway (man backing up) and move to ends of "Z"
8 bars Take one minuet step to the left along leg of "Z", two steps across diagonal of "Z" (passing partner by right shoulder), and one step to the right along other leg of "Z"
8 bars Retrace "Z" to starting position
16 bars Right-hand turn four minuet steps; left-hand turn four minuet steps
16 bars Repeat first figure: lead up, turn halfway, lead down, turn halfway ending at ends of "Z"
16 bars Repeat "Z" figure
16 bars Two-hand turn clockwise four minuet steps and counterclockwise four minuet steps
4 bars Coda: Honor Presence; Honor partner

Mr. Isaac's Maggot
3/2, C

longways duple minor

Playford 1695

- A 1-4 M1 right-hand turn W2 three-quarters, then M1 dance below M2 to return to original place
5-8 W1 left-hand turn M2 three-quarters, then dance below W2 to original place
B 1-4 Neighbors (taking near hands) fall back six steps and come forward, turning single on the last three steps
5-8 Starting with partner, dance three changes of a circular hey to end in a line of 4 facing up, 1s in the middle and 2s on the outside
9-10 Line of 4 lead up three steps and fall back three steps
11-12 2s assist 1s to cast into progressed place (gates)

Petit Jean
6/8, Gm

longways duple minor IMPROPER

Louis Vosteen 2001
Var. on "Female Saylor"

- A1 1-8 2s lead up and cast down; 1s lead down and cast up
A2 1-8 1s and 2s dance a double figure 8 (1s crossing down to begin)
B1 1-8 Symmetrical back-to-back with neighbor (1s going down the center to begin);
Neighbors two-hand turn once round
B2 1-8 All right shoulder back-to-back with partner; 1s cross, cast, and two-hand turn
halfway to progressed place as the 2s two-hand turn moving up

The Potter's Wheel longways duple minor
9/8, D

Brooke Friendly & Chris Sackett 2009

- A 1-4 Partners facing, dance four changes of rights and lefts
5-8 1s turn by the right hand once-and-a-half to end facing the 2nd woman with 1st
man in the lead and 1st woman close behind
B 1-4 1s dance a left shoulder "dolphin hey" across the set with the 2s (1s dance in
tandem, switching the lead each time they loop out of the hey)
5-6 2s follow the curve of the hey to dance up the outside into 1st place WHILE the
1s, with 1st man in the lead, dance down the middle of the set and curve out to
own sides in 2nd place
7-8 Partners right-hand turn once round

The Punch Bowl
2/3, G

longways duple minor

Playford 1701

- A1 1-2 1s cross and cast down as 2s meet and lead up the middle
3-4 1s lead down through the next 2s below and cast back to 2nd place, WHILE the 2s
separate, move up the outside (around the 1s leading down), and come in to meet
and lead back down the center to 1st place
5-8 Original 1s and 2s circle left halfway; 1s cast down as the 2s lead up
A2 1-2 Repeat A1 with reversed roles: 2s cross and cast down as 1s meet and lead up
3-4 2s lead down through the next 1s below and cast back to 2nd place, WHILE the 1s
separate, move up the outside (around the 2s leading down), and come in to meet
and lead back down through the center to 1st place
5-8 Original 1s and 2s circle left halfway; 2s cast down as the 1s lead up
B 1 1st corners (2nd man and 1st woman in 1st corner positions) change (3 steps)
2 2nd corners change (3 steps)
3-4 Circle left halfway
5-8 1s cast down and two-hand turn halfway WHILE the 2s two-hand turn
once-and-a-half moving up

Sam's Maggot
2/4, Em

3-couple longways set

Walsh 1728

- A1 1-8 M1 weave down own line, passing in front of M2 and behind M3 (8 counts), then dance up the middle into partner's place (4 counts); W1 wait 8 counts and then cross into partner's place. On the last 4 counts, 1s left-hand turn halfway to home.
- A2 1-8 W1 weave down own line, passing in front of W2 and behind W3 (8 steps), then dance up the middle into partner's place (4 counts); M1 wait 8 counts and then cross into partner's place. On the last 4 counts, 1s right-hand turn halfway to home.
- B1 1-8 1s and 2s set and turn single, then dance two changes of rights and lefts
9-16 1s right-hand turn 3s once round (M1 and W3, W1 and M3), then 1s left-hand turn 2s once round (M1 and M2, W1 and W2)
- B2 1-8 1s and 2s set and turn single, then dance two changes of rights and lefts (ending home)
9-12 1s set, then (short) cast into 2nd place, 2s leading up
13-16 1s lead down and turn out into 3rd place as 3s (long) cast up to 2nd place

Softly Good Tummas
2/2, Dm

longways duple minor

Kynaston 1718

- A1 1-4 Single file circle left halfway round
5-8 All advance diagonally in a double to the center and turn single left out, clapping once on the last beat of bar 8
- A2 1-4 Single file circle right halfway round
5-8 All advance diagonally in a double to the center and turn single right out, clapping once on the last beat of bar 8
- B1 1-2 1s cast (short – 4 counts) into 2nd place as 2s move up
3-4 All set to partner
5-8 Beginning with partner, dance two changes of rights and lefts, ending close to partner in the middle (improper)
- B2 1-2 All fall back with a setting step
3-4 All cross over passing right shoulder with partner
5-8 1s right-hand turn moving down to 2nd place, WHILE 2s cast (long – 8 counts) up into 1st place

Summersweet
4/4, A

longways duple minor

Gary Roodman 2023

- A 1-2 1st corners cast left (behind neighbors) to change places
3-4 2nd corners cast right (behind partners) to change places
5-6 Partners back-to-back
7-8 Taking hands, M1 move left to draw the set out into a line of 4 facing up
M1-M2-W2-W1
- B 1-2 Line of 4 lead up a double; turn individually to face down and all fall back a

- double (moving up the set)
- 3-4 Line of 4 lead down a double; turn individually to face up and all fall back a double (moving down the set)
- 5-6 1s (on the ends of the line) gate turn the 2s up and around into original position
- 7-8 1s cast down as 2s lead up

Trip to Kilburn
2/2, Am

longways triple minor

Playford 1728

- A1 1-2 1s cast down to 2nd place (2s moving up) (4 steps)
3-6 1s and 3s circle left once round (8 steps)
7-8 1s lead down through the 3s to face out at the bottom of the minor set (4 steps)
- A2 1-2 1s cast up to 2nd place
3-6 1s and 2s circle left once round
7-8 1s lead up through the 2s to face out at the top of the minor set
- B1 1-2 1s cast down into 2nd place (4 steps)
3-8 Circle 6 to the left once round (12 steps)
- B2 1-4 1s and 2s dance a (quick, 2 steps per change) circular hey
5-8 Partners two-hand turn once round

Winter Waltz 3-couple longways (1st couple IMPROPER) Fried de Metz Herman 1999
3/4, Em

- A1 1-4 Circle 6 to the left halfway round
5-8 1s (in bottom place) half figure 8 up through the middle couple
- A2 1-4 1s cross up the center, dance out between the 2s and 3s and up behind the 3s into top place. On bars 3-4, the 2s and 3s take two side-steps down one place
5-8 Circle 6 to the left halfway round, ending in lines of 3 (the lines should be close)
- B1 1-2 Lines fall back
3-4 With hands still joined in lines, all set (without moving forward)
5-8 Release hands to come forward and dance back-to-back with partner
- B2 1-4 Top couple “meander” to the bottom: without taking hands, top two couples single-file circle half way counter-clockwise (“left shoulders in”), then bottom two couples single-file circle half way clockwise (“right shoulders in”)
5-8 1s, now in middle place, dance right-shoulder once round each other (this should be wide, flowing into the circle to begin the dance again)

The Wood Duck
3/4, Am

circle mixer

Fried deMetz Herman 1978

Begins in a circle with men on the inside facing out, women on the outside facing in

- A 1-4 Partners dance right-shoulder once round each other
5-8 Left-hand turn dancer diagonally to the left once round
9-12 Partners dance left-shoulder once round each other
13-16 Right-hand turn dancer diagonally to the right once round

- B 1-2 Both hands joined with partner, take 2 chasse (side) steps counterclockwise (M left, W right)
 3-4 Men turn partner under joined arm so that the women also face out (on the left of current partner), forming a large outward-facing ring
 5-6 All balance out and back
 7-8 Man lead new partner (in right hand) in front of him
 9-16 With new partners, waltz moving counterclockwise in circle formation

Young Phillis of Wakefield
 2/2, G

longways duple minor

Walsh 1715

- A1 1-8 1s lead down through the 2s, cast up to place, and two-hand turn once round
 A2 1-8 2s lead up through the 1s, cast down to place, and two-hand turn once round
 B1 1-8 Men lead between the women and cast back to place; men face each other, clap together-right-together-left, and change places with each other passing right shoulder
 B2 1-8 Women lead between the men and cast back to place; women face each other, clap together-right-together-left, and change places passing right shoulder
 C1 1-8 All star right and star left
 C2 1-4 Partners dance back-to-back
 5-6 Partners clap together-right-together-left
 7-8 Cloverleaf turn single: 1s turn down and away, 2s turn up and away