

THE MAXINA

The Maxina was first seen at a competition for a new dance organised by the British Association of Teachers of Dancing in 1917. It was awarded first prize and became an immediate hit. Appearing in Australia at the end of the First World War, it spread rapidly to become very popular, particularly in country areas, where many different versions arose. We will be doing the version from country NSW.

The original dance was arranged by Madame Low-Hurndall, and the original music was by her husband, WF Hurndall, and an associate, Marguerite Boissonaide. The music and the dance fit together extremely well, but the music is not easy and for many decades bush musicians struggled to find alternative tunes to suit the dance. They had very little success and the Maxina continues to be danced to the 1917 music.

Formation: Couples in circle, facing LOD, Upper Promenade hold. lady and man both start each movement on left foot.

Music: 24-bar March "The Maxina".

BARS	DESCRIPTION
2	Rock forward and back twice. <i>(Left foot forward.)</i>
2	Left - 2 - 3 - lift right foot, right foot back - 2 - 3 - close left foot.
2	Two slow steps forward, reverse, four quick steps backward. <i>(Along along LOD, maintaining upper promenade hold throughout.)</i>
2	Repeat preceding against LOD.
4	Grapevine. <i>(Left foot forward and slightly right of right foot, close right foot, pivot quarter-turn left on balls of feet, drag left foot back, close right foot; repeat 3 times.)</i>
2	Left - 2 - Crossover - right foot back - left foot back - close right foot. <i>(Crossover - bring left foot across right foot and take weight on left foot before stepping back on right foot.)</i>
2	Repeat previous.
2	Two slow steps forward, retain right hands while turning lady out, then pull together into ballroom hold.
6	Waltz 2 rotations along LOD, turning out into upper promenade hold.
24	Repeat as required.

Note: The Brazilian **Maxixe**, a complicated tango/two-step, was introduced to England in 1914. Three years later in Paris, Marie Lowe-Hurndall simplified it, set it to music by Marguerite Boissonade and WF Hurndall, and renamed it **The Maxina**. In 1920 Hurndall modified it and republished it as **The New Maxina**, which is the dance described here.

Description based on "Take Your Partners" 3rd Ed. ISBN 0 9080 9013 7 pub. Hyland House 1979 © Copyright Shirley Andrews 1979.