

Varsouvianna

Music: Varsouvianna medley

Record: 45-103

The following variations can be found below:

[Varsouvianna in Dance Position | The Open Varsouvianna The Scotch Roll](#)

Since this is such a tremendously important dance, we are adding a few things to the instructions, for your further information.

The name: The original spelling was Varsouvienne. Other spellings are as above and Varsovianna, Varsovienne, and even "Put Your Little Foot," and "New Shoes." Varsovienne is a French word meaning "of (or from) Warsaw." This describes the dance... it is a mazurka waltz that apparently originated in Warsaw, Poland, in the mid-1900s.

The position: "Take Varsouvianna pos" is such a basic instruction that is turns up in many round dances. Stand side by side with the woman on the man's right. The man's right hand holds her right hand just above her right shoulder, and his left hand holds her left hand across in front of him and at her shoulder height. Make sure that the hands joined above her right shoulder are actually in the air and not resting on her shoulder. Also, make sure that the joined left hands are not collapsed back against the man's chest but held forward so that there is a significant space created in front of the couple.

Footwork: Identical (sometimes opposite but it depends on the figure). Both start with left foot.

Introduction: 4 meas. In Varsouvianna pos, wait 2 meas; step L, point R, and hold; step R, point L, sweep R foot back over L instep.

Measures:

1-4 GLIDE, CLOSE, SWEEP; GLIDE, CLOSE, SWEEP;

GLIDE, CLOSE, STEP; POINT, , SWEEP

Starting with the L, which has been swept back over the

R instep, on the last beat of the preceding meas, glide fwd in LOD and to the L on L, close the R to the L, sweep back with L over R instep; glide fwd again on L, close R to L, sweep L back over R; glide fwd on L, woman crosses R over L and takes wt on R, while man steps slightly to his R on R in order to help them cross each other, woman completes the cross-over by stepping on L a little farther to L, while man closes his L to R (without letting go of handholds, woman has come to man's L side); both point fwd and to the R with R, hold one count, then sweep R back over L instep.

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 in reverse, starting with the R foot, and ending back in original pos, pointing and sweeping with the L.

9-12 GLIDE, CROSS, STEP; POINT, , SWEEP; GLIDE, CROSS, STEP; POINT, , SWEEP

As in meas 3-4, glide fwd in LOD on L, woman cross R over L, and step to L on L, while man steps to R and closes L; both point to R of fwd with R and then sweep R back over L instep; on meas 11-12 repeat in reverse to the R as in meas 7-8.

13-16 Repeat meas 9-12.

17-32 Repeat meas 1-16.

33-48 Maneuvering instantly into closed dance pos, do 16 meas of RF turning waltz, in LOD. Bal and maneuver from RF to LF turning waltz for variety, if you like, so long as you remain in LOD. At the end of the 16 meas of waltz, maneuver into Varsouvianna pos, facing LOD.

The dance is done three times. On the last time through three are 32 meas of waltz. We suggest that the dancers break from the fixed LOD circle and do a free waltz for the second 16 meas. Twirl and bow at the end.

The Glide Step and the "sweep" that precedes it are really one action, and it is quite natural to do them as such, without thinking of the fact that the sweep-back actually starts on the final beat of the measure preceding the glide. This is the basic mazurka step. While it requires a certain type of waltz music, you can dance the Varsouvianna to any waltz in the right tempo. You can Varsouvianna right through the waltz sections of this record, also, while practicing.

For variety, use the standard from above for the first sequence, and one of the variations described below for each of the others.

Varsouvianna in Dance Position

Footwork: Opposite throughout, directions for man, semi-closed pos.

Introduction: In semi-closed pos, facing LOD, lead hands pointing in LOD, dance intro as in standard version, starting man's L, woman's R.

Measures:

1-4 GLIDE, CLOSE, SWEEP; GLIDE, CLOSE, SWEEP;
WALK, 2, TURNBACK; , , SWEEP

Using opp footwork and moving LOD, dance meas of the standard version; on meas 3, walk 3 steps fwd, L, R, L, on the third count pivoting on L to face RLOD, adjusting arms so that lead hands are trailing and partners are looking fwd in RLOD over their encircling arms; point twd RLOD and R with R (woman L), hold, and sweep R back over L instep.

5-8 Repeat the action of meas 1-4, starting with man's R and doing the action in the opp direction, ending facing LOD.

9-12 GLIDE RIGHT, FACE, AND; POINT (arch), , SWEEP;
GLIDE LEFT, FACE, AND; POINT (dip), , SWEEP

Meas 9-10 repeat the action of meas 3-4 (as the partners turn twd RLOD they arch their lead hands, which are now trailing, slightly over their own heads, bending fwd in

RLOD over their encircling arms); meas 11-12 repeat the action of meas 7-8 (as they turn back twd LOD, they dip their leading hands fwd, dipping their bodies twd them).

13-16 Repeat meas 9-12.

17-32 Repeat meas 1-16.

33-48 RF TURNING WALTZ.

The Open Varsouvianna

Footwork: Opposite throughout, starting L, skirt skaters' pos, directions for man.

Measures:

1-8 Danced as above and in the standard version, except that the partners' outside hands are free, man has his R arm around woman's waist, she has her L hand on his R shoulder, and she may hold her skirt with her R hand. As they turn back twd RLOD, they change hands and reverse this pos. They make these changes twice as in meas 1-8, above.

9-12 TURN BACK TO BACK AND; POINT, , SWEEP;
TURN BACK TO BACK AND; POINT, , SWEEP

Letting go holds completely, partners turn away from each other (back to back) in 3 steps (man steps L, R, L); point R twd RLOD, hold, and sweep r over L instep; repeat in reverse, man stepping R, L, R, and turning RF, back twd LOD; point L, hold and sweep L over R instep.

13-16 Repeat 9-12.

17-32 Repeat 1-16.

33-48 RF turning waltz.

The Scotch Roll

Footwork: Identical is described, but this version is very pretty with opp also. Start in standard pos.

Measures:

1-4 GLIDE, CLOSE, SWEEP; GLIDE, CLOSE, SWEEP;
SCOTCH ROLL; POINT, , SWEEP; , , SWEEP

The first 2 meas are danced like meas 1-2 of the standard version; on meas 3, woman lets go with R hand, and, with L hands still joined, rolls LF across under man's L arm, and joins R hands at man's R shoulder; both point R, hold, and sweep R across L instep.

5-8 Repeat meas 1-2 in reverse; cross back to original place as in meas 7-8 of the standard version.

9-12 OUT ON THE RIGHT; POINT, , SWEEP; BACK UP TO PLACE; POINT, , SWEEP

Dropping L hands, woman turns out on R hands, L, R, L (RF), to face RLOD (extended banjo); in this pos, both point R and sweep R over L; woman turns LF back into pos; both point R and sweep R.

13-16 OUT ON THE LEFT; POINT, , SWEEP; TURN BACK TO PLACE; POINT, , SWEEP

Dropping R hands, woman turns LF out to the L (L, R, L) extended side-car; both point R and sweep R; woman continues LF turn under L hands (R, L, R) back to place on man's R, rejoin R hands; both point L and sweep L.

17-32 Repeat meas 1-16.

33-48 RF turning waltz.

These versions are all described in complete detail in Lloyd Shaw's Round Dance Book, along with many other variations.