



FLYING CAT

IVFDF 2021 BAL SESSION TUNES

JAMES AND CARO

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WELCOME!

Here's a selection of tunes we like to play for Bal dancing. We've picked tunes that we hope are fairly simple to pick up and not too difficult to play, but have a lot of scope for experimenting with harmonies, interesting chords and generally messing around. We've written chord suggestions for most of the tunes, but these are just suggestions. Neither of us really speaks French or Dutch, so apologies in advance for some *interesting* attempts at pronouncing tune names.

Tunes in this style tend to be in more interesting keys than English/Irish tunes. We've tried to pick tunes that will be accessible for as many instruments as possible. In some cases, we've included tunes in two keys - an "original" key and something a bit more friendly for diatonic instruments. We'll aim to play the tunes at a speed suitable for dancing, but on the slower end of that range, to give you a bit more time to get your fingers round the tunes and find spaces to experiment. If there's keys or tunes that your instrument can't do, please let us know when you join the session so we can accomodate.

We've made some recordings of some of the tunes, available in the Google Drive folder linked at <https://flyingcat.dance/workshops>. If you would like these tunes in a different format/key/clef, or generally just want to chat with us, email band@flyingcat.dance.

1 SCOTTISHE

Here¹ is an example of what this dance can look like. We like to play scottishes with a light bounce.

LONGWATER (DM)

×IM

Dm B \flat C Am

Dm (F) B \flat C

B \flat C F B \flat C Dm Am

B \flat C F B \flat C Dm Am

LONGWATER (EM)

×IM

Em C D Bm

Em (G) C D

C D G C D Em Bm

C D G C D Em Bm

¹<https://youtu.be/s37NJhmU1eQ>

RUE DES PRÉS

STÉPHANE DURAND

Chords for Rue des Prés:

- Staff 1: G, G/B, Bm7, C, Am7, C/D
- Staff 2: G, D/G, Am7, 1 D/F#, 2 D/F#
- Staff 3: C, C/E, C/D, D, G/B, Em7
- Staff 4: Em, Em/D, Em/B, Em/C, 1 Em/D, 2 D

JAN, MIJNE MAN

TRAD. BELGIUM?

Chords for Jan, Mijne Man:

- Staff 1: Am, G, F, G
- Staff 2: C, F, Em
- Staff 3: Am, G, F, G

2 BOURRÉE

Rhythm wise, the emphasis in a bourrée should be like a heartbeat, on the first and last quavers of the bar (regardless of how many quavers in between). This should help it not sound and feel like a polka or waltz, and make the dancers bounce in the right places. Here's² one to watch.

2.1 DEUX TEMPS

COMMONER'S LOT

ANDY CUTTING

Chord symbols: G, C, D, G, C, D, C, D, G, Am, Bm, C, Am, C, D, C, G, C, Am, C, Am, D.

²<https://youtu.be/rzA-ddNBb98>

BOURRÉE D'ABSINTHE

Em C D

Em D Em

Em G C D

Em G C D

Detailed description: This musical score is for 'Bourrée d'Absinthe' in E minor, 2/4 time. It consists of four staves. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The second staff ends with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The third and fourth staves also end with repeat signs and double bar lines. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Em, C, D on the first staff; Em, D, Em on the second; Em, G, C, D on the third; and Em, G, C, D on the fourth.

BOURRÉE D'AUROC SAND (DM)

Dm B \flat C Am Dm

Dm B \flat F C Am Dm

Detailed description: This musical score is for 'Bourrée d'Aurore Sand' in D minor, 2/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The second staff ends with a repeat sign and a double bar line. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Dm, B \flat , C, Am, Dm on the first staff; and Dm, B \flat , F, C, Am, Dm on the second.

BOURRÉE D'AUROC SAND (EM)

Em C D Bm Em

Em C G D Bm Em

Detailed description: This musical score is for 'Bourrée d'Aurore Sand' in E minor, 2/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The second staff ends with a repeat sign and a double bar line. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Em, C, D, Bm, Em on the first staff; and Em, C, G, D, Bm, Em on the second.

2.2 TROIS TEMPS

Bourrée Tournante des Grandes Poteries isn't quite a normal bourrée, but the tune is so fun to play we have included it anyway. The dance looks like this³, so the second half feels a bit more like a waltz, then has 4 strong stamping beats at the end.

BOURRÉE TOURNANTE DES GRANDES POTERIES

TRAD. MASSIF CENTRAL, FRANCE

LA BOURRÉE À HUIT

The second system of the musical notation continues the melody. It begins with a G major chord, followed by a D major chord, and then a G major chord. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The system concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign, followed by two measures of the G major chord, labeled '1 G' and '2 G'.

³<https://youtu.be/K7w0i5IbdbI>

3 MAZURKA

This video⁴ shows Mazurka à Clément, and the kind of slinky feeling we like to try and put into mazurkas. This one⁵ shows what the dance feels like.

LA CHAPKA

VINCENT LEUTREAU

Chords: G, Em, C, D, G, Em, C, 1 D, 2 D

MOTORWAY MAZURKA

JON SWAYNE

Chords: D, F#m7, G(G6), D(A7), D, F#m7, G, A, 1 D, 2 D, G, A7, D, Dmaj7, Bm, Em7, A, 1 D, Em7, F#m7, A, 2 D, G, A

⁴<https://youtu.be/8akn5rbECCM>

⁵<https://youtu.be/k7kSRLuk-XI>

MAZURKA À CLÉMENT

PHILIPPE SOUCHÉ

The musical score is written in 3/4 time and consists of four staves. The first staff begins with an Am chord. The second staff contains a repeat section with first and second endings, marked with '1' and '2' above the staff. The third and fourth staves continue the melody with various chords. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Am

G C

1 E7 Am 2 E7 Am

Am G F E7 Am

Am G F E7 Am

7 WALTZ

Bal waltzes go a bit faster than you might be expecting if you've played ceilidh or contra music before. This video[§] shows some people dancing to Robin's waltz. There's also a lot of waltzes that have more than 3 beats, commonly 5, 8 or even 11 or 13.

7.1 SOME BEATS

ROBIN'S WALTZ

JON SWAYNE

Em B7 Em B7 Cmaj7

D 1 Em B7 2 Em

Em7 Am7 D7 Gmaj7 Cmaj7

Am7 1 B7 Em 2 B7 Em

WALLED GARDEN WALTZ

ANDY CUTTING

G Bm C D G Bm C 1 D 2 D

G C Am D G C 1 D 2 D

[§]<https://youtu.be/hHUco3NDnv4>

LE RETOUR DES HIRONDELLES

TOON VAN MIERLO

The musical score is written in 3/4 time and consists of four staves. The chords indicated above the notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: C, C/B, C/A, C/F
- Staff 2: C/D, C/E, C/F, C/G
- Staff 3: C/A, C/B, C/F
- Staff 4: C/G, C/A, C/E, C/F

4.2 EXTRA BEATS

HAPPY MOMENTS

PASCALE RUBENS

The musical score for "Happy Moments" by Pascale Rubens is written in 5/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 5/4 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. The second staff continues the melody, ending with a double bar line. The third staff begins with a repeat sign and a half note, followed by a whole note chord. The fourth staff continues the melody, ending with a double bar line. The chords are indicated above the notes: Am, F, C, and Em.

Am F C Em

Am F C Em

Am F G Em

Am F G Em

5 JIG

Tunes that look like English/Irish jigs are used for a variety of dances, including Circassian Circle, Chappelloise and rondo. They are usually quite fast, light and bouncy. You can see a video of people dancing Cercle to Zelda here⁷.

Peridondine is a very old tune, and seems to have been composed or passed around in a lot of Northern Europe - we've found versions from Belgium, England and Denmark.

PERICONDINE

TRAD. BELGIUM?

Pericondine musical notation (Jig, 6/8 time). The notation is presented in four staves. Chords are indicated above the notes: C, F, G, Am, G, F, C, F, Am, G.

ZELDA

PHILIPPE FLARD

Zelda musical notation (Jig, 6/8 time). The notation is presented in four staves. Chords are indicated above the notes: Am, F, G, F, G, Am, Am, F, G, Em, Am, F, G.

⁷<https://youtu.be/ctKZeXN9zyA>

STIFFKEY

DUNCAN CHURCHILL-MOSS

C C G F Dm F G

C C G F G 1 C 2 C

G C G F Dm F G

G C G 1 F G 2 F G C

6 POLKA

Polkas go REALLY FAST. Here[§] is this tune played for a polka, although it can also be used for Chappelloise with a different feeling. Finding polkas that don't have a crazy amount of notes in is a bit tricky.

L'ÉLAN

PHILIPPE PLARD

The musical score for 'L'ÉLAN' is written in 2/4 time and consists of four staves. The first staff begins with an Am chord and contains four measures of music. The second staff begins with a Dm chord and contains four measures, ending with a repeat sign. The third staff begins with an F chord and contains four measures. The fourth staff begins with an F chord and contains four measures, ending with a repeat sign. Chord changes are indicated above the staves: Am, Am/F, Dm, Em, F, G, Em, C, F, G, C.

[§]<https://youtu.be/qGtty2kWCNc>

7 GAVOTTE DE L'AVEN

The defining feature of this kind of tune is a little hole where the dance step pauses. Watch Naragonia make the most of this feature here³

LES DEUX FRÈRES (F)

Chords for 'LES DEUX FRÈRES (F)':

- Staff 1: F, F/E, B \flat /G, C
- Staff 2: F, F/E, B \flat /G, B \flat , F/C, F/E
- Staff 3: F/D, F/C, F/E, F, B \flat /G, B \flat /C
- Staff 4: B \flat , F/A, B \flat /G, B \flat /C, F, F/E

LES DEUX FRÈRES (G)

Chords for 'LES DEUX FRÈRES (G)':

- Staff 1: G, G/F \sharp , C/A, D
- Staff 2: G, G/F \sharp , C/A, C, G/D, G/F \sharp
- Staff 3: G/E, G/D, G/F \sharp , G, C/A, C/D
- Staff 4: C, G/B, C/A, C/D, G, G/F \sharp

³<https://youtu.be/qFby0qFizKk>

SIMPLY (F)

SIMON GIELEN

Chords: F, F/A, B \flat , C, Dm, F, F/A, B \flat , C, B \flat , C, F, C, B \flat , Am, B \flat , C, F, C, F

SIMPLY (G)

SIMON GIELEN

Chords: G, G/B, C, D, Em, G, G/B, C, D, C, D, G, D, C, Bm, C, D, G, D, G