

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 accommodate.

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.

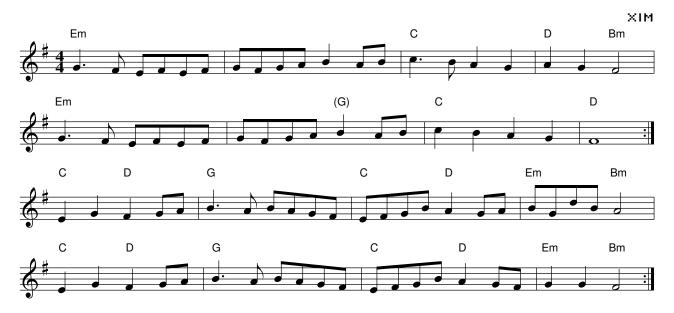
1 SCOTTISHE

 $\operatorname{Here}^{\mathbf{1}}$ is an example of what this dance can look like. We like to play scottishes with a light bounce.

LONGWATER (DM)



LONGWATER (EM)



¹https://youtu.be/s37NJhmU1eQ

RUE DES PRÉS

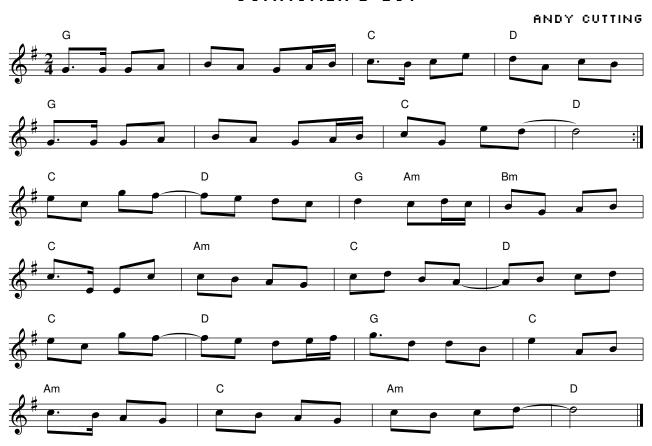


2 BOURRÉE

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's one to watch.

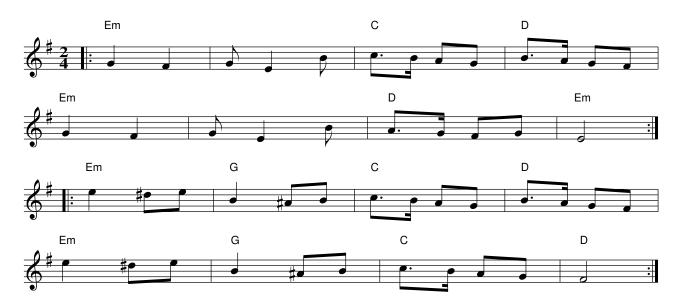
2.1 DEUX TEMPS

COMMONER'S LOT

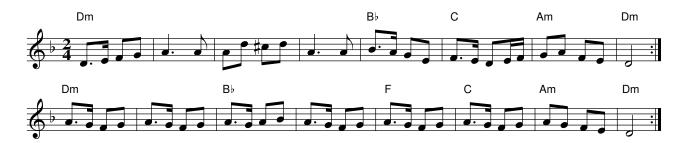


²https://youtu.be/rzA-ddNBb98

BOURRÉE D'ABSINTHE



BOURRÉE D'AURORE SAND (DM)



BOURRÉE D'AURORE SAND (EM)



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

G C I D 2 D

LA BOURRÉE À HUIT



https://youtu.be/K7w0i5IbdbI

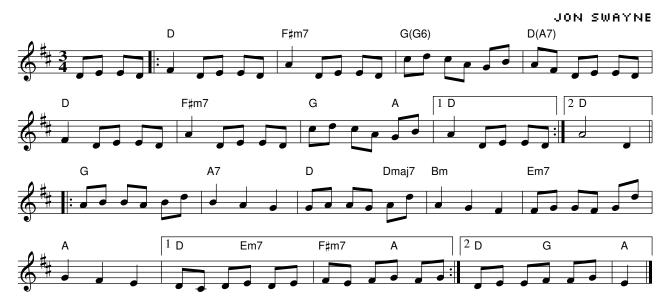
3 MAZURKA

This video 4 shows Mazurka à Clément, and the kind of slinky feeling we like to try and put into mazurkas. This one 5 shows what the dance feels like.

LA CHAPKA



MOTORWAY MAZURKA

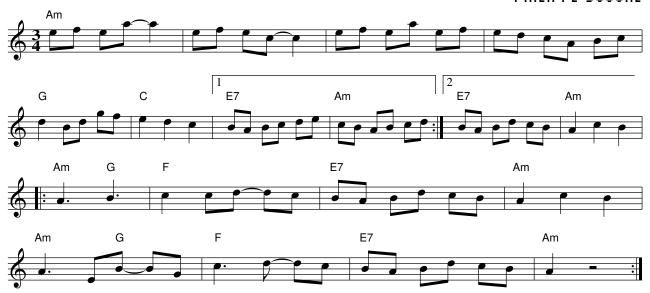


https://youtu.be/8akn5rbECCM

⁵https://youtu.be/k7kSRLuk-XI

MAZURKA À CLÉMENT

PHILIPPE SOUCHÉ



4 WALTZ

Bal waltzes go a bit faster than you might be expecting if you've played ceilidh or contra music before. This video⁶ 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.

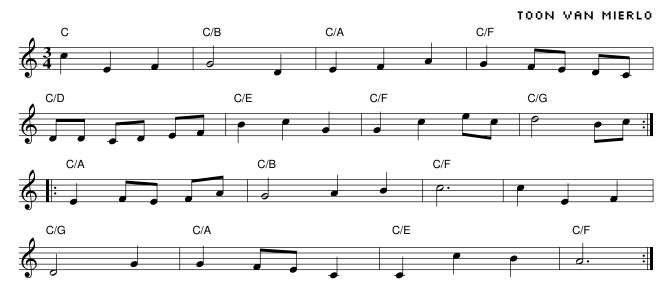
4.1 SOME BEATS

ROBIN'S WALTZ



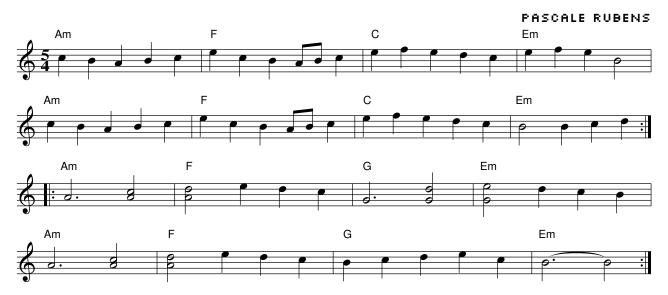
⁶https://youtu.be/hHUco3NDnv4

LE RETOUR DES HIRONDELLES



4.2 EXTRA BEATS

HAPPY MOMENTS



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 here?.

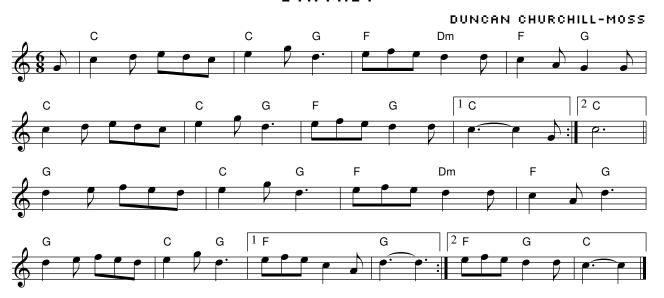
Peridondine is a very old tune, and seems to have been composed or passed around in a lot of Northern Europe - we've found versions from Belgium, England and Denmark.

PERICONDINE



⁷https://youtu.be/ctKZeXN9zyA

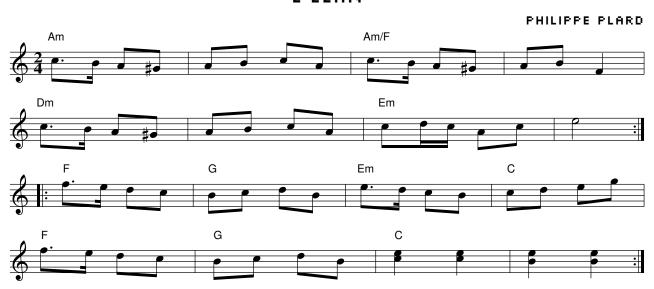
STIFFKEY



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

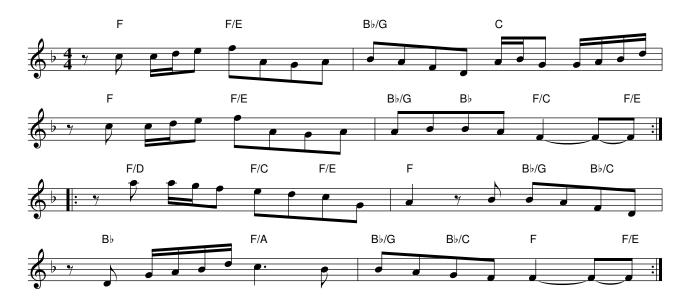


^{*}https://youtu.be/qGtty2kWCNc

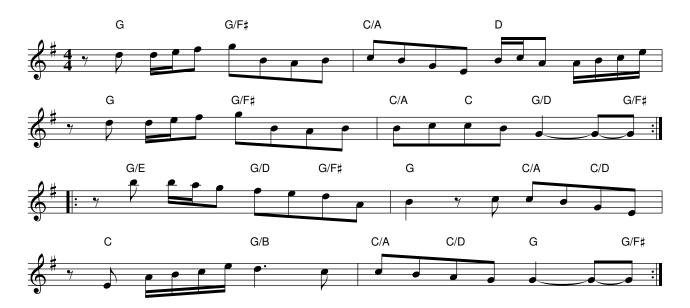
7 GAVOTTE DE L'AVEN

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 here 9

LES DEUX FRÈRES (F)

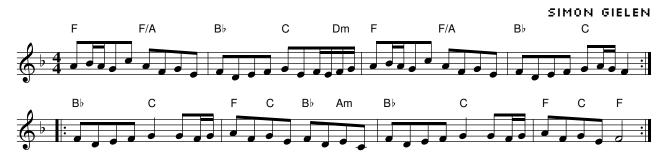


LES DEUX FRÈRES (G)



⁹https://youtu.be/qFby0qFIzKk

SIMPLY (F)



SIMPLY (G)

