

Near the Lake

This week, as we try to keep up just a little round dance activity, I'd like to invite you to try Moore's Near the Lake RB IV 2020. I don't know of a video, but go to rounddancing.net for all else you'll need.

Original soundtrack by John Barry: <https://youtu.be/esrTfwBiOM0>

What an interesting idea: Brent & Judy have taken foxtrot music and even some foxtrot figures and with them have written a rumba. We have a Telemark, Whisk, Wing, Hover Corte, and Outside Spin. Can these figures feel comfortable, feel right, if danced QQS, to a slow tempo, and with Latin Hip? As round dancers, we are well used to borrowing all kinds of figures from almost all the rhythms, but I'd be interested to hear what you think.

We start with a Half Basic. Speaking of the Latin Hip, here is a good place to think about it. Each dance rhythm has its own "look." There's the samba bounce, the bolero rise and fall, and the rumba hip, and we can think about details of technique when dancing the Basic, the New Yorker, or the Cucaracha. When we get to phase VI figures (with modifications!), then thoughts of proper technique get left behind in the heat of the battle. Anyway, dance the Half Basic with a step forward (lady back) with soft knee, ball-flat, lower the heel, straighten the leg, and let that hip settle. Add a little CCW (lady CW) hip rotation, and your lead hip will shift not only to the side but a little back. Recover R (lady L), ball-flat, hips CW (lady CCW), straighten leg, and settle hip, and you get a figure-8 hip motion forward and back and side to side. Step side with a little rotation and settle. I'm not sure our lumbar are up to this, so keep it small and do what feels comfortable. Here are a couple lessons on Latin Hip <https://youtu.be/azQepc4ykRI> and Cuban Motion <https://youtu.be/lfeXiuLzKCK>

A Cucaracha Cross puts us in SCP LOD, and then Moore calls for a Serpiente Half. This is a tango figure: side, behind, ronde (QQS). We are so used to dancing Thru to Serpiente with 3 weight changes that I thought it might be better to step cue this figure. Don't take weight on the ronde. We end in OP with lead foot free for a Back Break.

I have made a special effort to cue lots of ending positions and facing directions in the hope that this rather sophisticated dance can be do-to-cue. Toward the end of part A, we get to Wrapped Position both facing wall. Our Exploding Cucaracha is an explode apart, recover to face, and close to CP RLOD. The next cue is Fan. The man steps back as he normally would in a Fan, but he turns LF, allowing the lady to pass in front of him as she dances forward to normal Fan Position, man facing wall.

Part B starts with a normal Cross Body to CP COH. Here we dance an Open Telemark. This is our first foxtrot figure. Dance it QQS, and the lady holds back a little in more of an L-position than a true SCP. Since we start with man facing COH rather than DLC, the whole figure is rotated 1/8 LF, and we end facing LOD rather than DLW. We dance a one-measure Cross Body or Whip to BFLY LOD. Chase 3/4: man turns, both turn, and lady turns to face. End this sequence with a Hockey Stick End toward wall.

The second half of B starts with more foxtrot figures. the Hover Corte puts us in BJO RLOD. The Outside Spin overturns a little to CP RLOD, a full turn. For the Hockey Stick End, the man must back toward the wall, bringing the lady in front of him on the inside of the circle. He ends facing LOD for a facing Hockey Stick that overturns to CP Wall.

Part C begins with the first three measures of part A, but rather than a Back Break in measure 4, we back into an Aida Line: back, back, and back turning to the back-to-back Aida Line position. We have a whole measure for a slow arm sweep. Now, step cued, we rock forward, recover, switch (pull the trail foot back and thru) to face, recover; and dance Crab Walk 6 toward LOD.

The end of the dance is standard. Moore ends with a Fence Line, but sometimes we can be confused over whether to do the 3-step figure or the 1-step Fencing Line lunge, so I chose to end with the cue Lunge Thru.