

The Antiquities of Cordoba

A 32 bar strathspey for three couples in a longwise set.

This dance was inspired by a visit to Cordoba. The double arch Rondel-like figure in bars 9-16 evokes the original Moorish Mosque (La Mezquita). The opening arches are for the old "Roman Bridge" over the Guadalquivir river and the hands across in the Cogwheel figure of bars 17-24, and the final circle, are for the old water mill (Albolafia). Both the bridge and the mills have been rebuilt, more than once, since Roman times. The current form of the bridge dates from the Moorish period which is also thought to be when the Albolafia was constructed.

Bars Description

- 1-4 All cross over passing their partner by the right shoulder, 1st and 2nd women dancing under arches made by the men. All set on opposite sides.
- 5-8 All half turn their partner with both hands, opening out so that 1st couple face down while 2nd and 3rd couples face up. All set retaining nearer hands.
- 9-12 1st couple dance down under arches made by 2nd and 3rd couples. Then 1st woman crosses in front of 1st man and they both curve to their right to end between 2nd and 3rd places facing in, 1st man in front of 1st woman who is on the sideline.
Meanwhile 2nd and 3rd couples dance up, cross over and curve out to opposite sides facing across. 3rd woman ends in front of 2nd woman who is on the sideline.
All join hands facing across.
- 13-16 All repeat the pattern of bars 9-12 across the dance.
2nd and 3rd men dance across under arches made by 3rd woman with 1st man and 2nd woman with 1st woman. Then 3rd man crosses in front of 2nd man and they curve left to end in their original places.
Meanwhile 3rd woman with 1st man followed by 2nd woman with 1st woman dance across to the women's side, cross over, 3rd and 2nd woman passing in front of 1st couple, and curve away to end in their original places.
- 17-24 All set on the sides.
1st and 2nd couples dance half right hands across while 3rd couple cross over giving left hands.
2nd couple cross over giving right hands while 1st and 3rd couples dance half left hands across.
All set on the sides.
- 25-32 All circle six hands round to the left and back. The final order is 2,3,1.

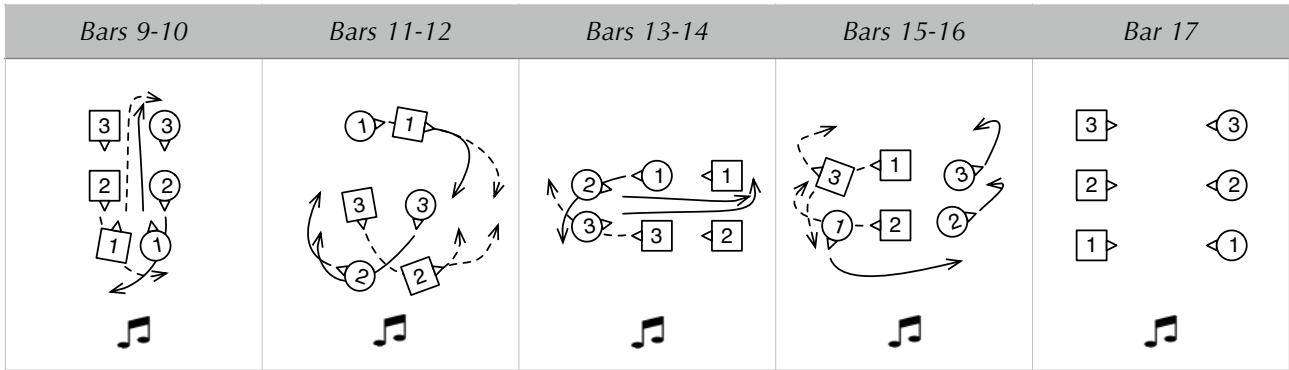
Music

- Suggested tune: Marchioness of Huntly (William Marshall).
- Suitable recording: Mrs May Anderson's Strathspey (Gordon Shand and his SDB: Reels and Wheels).

Notes

- It is more comfortable for those dancing under arches if the arches are broken - though retaining (or rejoining) hands makes it easier to cross neighbouring dancers in front afterwards. Do as you please! Broken arches could symbolise the incongruous church blighting the centre of the original mosque.

Diagrams (music at the bottom)



Roman Bridge



Arches in the Mosque



Albolafia Mill