

The Lancers

Musical score for "The Lancers" in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The score consists of seven staves of music. Section A (measures 1-4) is marked with a square 'A' above the first staff. Section B (measures 5-8) is marked with a square 'B' above the third staff. Section C (measures 9-16) is marked with a square 'C' above the fifth staff. The piece concludes with a final staff starting at measure 25.

1
4
8
12
16
21
25

"The Lancers", also known as "*Les Lanciers*" began as a 18th century quadrille composed by Polish violinist Felix Janiewicz (1762 - 1948). It became quite fashionable in the late 19th century, was favored in 1856 by Eugenie, wife of Napoleon III and hailed as a step in the "right direction" toward better taste in the dances (quadrilles).

"The Lancers Quadrille" was full of grace, with its salutes and its bows, its slow and solemn movements. Like the French Quadrille, it was much prettier than the American Quadrille, which was more lively and animated, that it was not easily adopted in formal salons. It consisted of a set of five dances in square dance form. The five 'tours' of "*Les Lanciers*" were:

La Dorset

La Victoria

Les Moulinets

Les Visites

Les Lanciers

There were many imitations and variations developed as the popularity of the dance spread. An Internet search will turn up a number of these variations.

The version here is the one played by Paul Van Arsdale who learned this from his grandfather Jesse Martin. The C part is different the original which was harmonically unsuited to the hammered dulcimer and was probably paraphrased by Martin. The first two parts are pretty close to the fifth dance of the original Lancers set.

I have made a few further modifications to avoid some hammered dulcimer idioms.