

De Valse Zeeman

(The Netherlands)

De Valse Zeeman (duh VAHL-seh ZAY-mahn) was choreographed by Sibylle Helmer to a song by the same name from an album entitled Dorothea, recorded in 2000 by the Flemish group Lais. It was taught at the Folk Dance Federation of California Statewide Festival in Redding, California, by Roberto Bagnoli in May 2014. He learned it in Italy from Wijnand Karel. The name literally means the false or untruthful sailor (or seaman), but in the context of this dance can be translated as “the unfaithful sailor.” The lyrics tell about a couple’s expression of undying love for each other; the sailor then goes to sea and there are waves (Fig. II 1-4) and rocking of the boat (Fig. II 5-8). Toward the end, the sailor is unfaithful to the girl, and they both seek new partners (final Fig.III).

As far as we could determine, the dance was first taught in North America by Tineke Van Geel at Pinewoods Camp (Plymouth, MA) in 2004 and at Saratoga (CA) on Nov. 20, 2004. She also wrote a dance description in English that has been widely distributed. It differs from Bagnoli’s version in one small way in Fig. II as noted below. Richard Brown (Kirkwood, NY) is shown teaching a version of the dance on youtube in 2011, and the choreographer claims that of the many videos on youtube, this one best demonstrates the dance as she created it (youtube.com/watch?v=zZOiAhSBQX4). Richard Brown reports learning the dance from Jocelyne Vaillancourt of Montreal. We thank R. Bagnoli, R. Brown, S. Helmer, and T. Van Geel for important contributions to this description.

- CD: Music: 3/4 meter. Ethnic Festival 015 (2014), band 3, by Roberto Bagnoli; Voetje voor Voetje, Syncoop Records.
- Formation: Couples arranged in a circle, facing CCW and holding inside hands. M is to left of partner.
- Steps: Waltz steps throughout the dance, except for Fig. II, meas 5-8 and 13-16. M starts on L ft, W on R.
- Styling: Smooth and graceful.

Measures	¾ meter	Pattern
1-16	<u>INTRODUCTION:</u> No action. Dance starts with singing.	
	I. <u>WALTZ FORWARD AND ROTATE.</u>	
1-2	Waltz fwd (LOD) facing away and then toward ptr, swinging joined inside hands fwd and back.	
3-4	M dances 1 waltz meas fwd, dropping hands with ptr., then waltzes backward for 1 meas. Meanwhile W does a 3-step half-turn to her R (R,L,R) moving a little fwd, but ending facing ptr., and then waltzes backward for 1 meas.	
5-8	With R arms extended, but slightly bent, give R hand to ptr and rotate CW full turn with three waltz steps (meas 5-7). End facing CCW. On meas 8, drop handhold; M dances 3 steps in place (R,L,R) while W turns to R to face fwd with 3 steps (L,R,L). Rejoin inside hands.	
9-16	Repeat meas 1-8.	

II. EXCHANGE SIDES AND GRAPEVINE.

- 1-2 M takes ptr's R hand in his L, making an arch. Moving CCW, dance two waltz meas. W dances under the arch exchanging sides with M. (meas 1), and both dance fwd for one more meas (meas 2).
- 3-4 M takes W's L hand in his R making an arch, and W dances under this arch moving fwd as in meas 1, and changing back to original side. On meas 4 both dance fwd with same handhold for 1 waltz meas. End with ptrs facing and holding both hands across.
- 5-6 Moving CCW, dance a 4-count grapevine starting with M stepping to side on L and W to side on R.; second step is behind, third step to side, and fourth is in front. M sways to L on L ft, W to R on R ft (ct 5); and then both sway back on opposite ft (ct 6).
- 7 Dance 3-count grapevine moving CW: M starts stepping on L behind, then R to side, and L in front; W steps on R ft behind, L to side, and R in front.
- 8 M sways to R on R ft (ct 1) and back to L on L (ct 2), and steps on R behind (ct 3); W sways to L on L ft, back to R on R, and then steps on L behind. [In the Van Geel description, the step on ct 3 is taken to the front and not behind.]
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8. At end drop trailing handhold (M's R, W's L).

III. GRAND CHAIN.

- 1-2 Give R hand to ptr, and start a grand chain with M moving CCW with 1 waltz meas, and W moving CW (meas 1); give L hand to the second person and with second waltz meas end with M facing in (twd center) and W facing out (meas 2).
- 3-4 Joining R hands with the next person in line, but not releasing L handhold, dance 1 waltz meas forward, leaning slightly and looking to R (meas 3) and one meas backward, leaning slightly and looking to L (meas 4).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 starting with person on R, continuing to move in same direction.
- 9-14 Keeping L handhold, repeat meas 1-6 moving in opp direction (M CW, W CCW). End facing ptr.
- 15-16 Give R hand to ptr and rotate CW with 2 waltz meas to end in closed ballroom hold with M on inside or facing CW.

IV. TURNING WALTZES.

- 1-8 Cpls dance 8 turning waltz measures moving CCW while maintaining position in circle of dancers. At end open out to face CCW to begin dance again.

Dance repeats once more, but on second time Fig. IV is extended to 16 meas of turning waltz.

V. ENDING.

Following the last Fig. IV, Fig. III repeats, but in this case the direction of the dance does not reverse after meas 8. On meas 9-14 continue in the same direction so that dancers end up with different ptrs. On the last two meas (15-16) maintain both handholds while dancing in place and acknowledging dancers in each hand. Note that this is the ending in the original choreography, but there are two other endings being done in various groups. One would be to rotate CW dancing two waltz steps with the person on the R with R hands joined for these last two meas (as in the Bagnoli version). The third option is to rotate CCW for these two meas with the person on the L, L hands joined.

De Valse Zeeman Lyrics

Transliteration

1. Vaarwel, men Griet en ik ga naar de zee
De wind is reeds noordoost
Het schip ligt zeilklaar op de ree
Dus Grietje wees getroost
2. Straks kom ik weer naar 't vaderland
En dan word gij mijn vrouw
Ik heb mijn hart aan U verpand
Ik reken op uw trouw
3. Dus Grietje denk dan ook aan mij
Beschouw U reeds als bruid
Ga nooit met knapen wie 't ook zijn
Ga nooit met and'ren uit
4. O Grietje droog uw tranen af
Men liefste schrei niet meer
Gij zijt en blijft mijn hartelief
En spoedig keer ik weer
5. Wees niet jaloers mijn lieve Griet
Al zeg ik U vaarwel
Die bruine meisjes kus ik niet
Die zijn zo zwart van vel
6. Maar de stuurman kwam aan het Oosterstrand
Daar was zijn hart gerust
En menig meisje bruinverbrand
Werd ook door hem gekust
7. Maar wat deed Grietje bleef zij 'm trouw
Neen toen zij het vernam
Werd zij dien dag reeds bootsmansvrouw
Toen hij weer binnenkwam

Translation

1. Farewell my Grietje, I am going to sea,
The wind is already in northeast,
The ship is ready, the sails are up
Grietje is comforted.
2. Soon I will be near the fatherland
Some day you'll be my wife,
My heart is promised to you,
I count on your fidelity.
3. Grietje, think of me as well
I see you already as a bride,
Don't go with boys whoever they are
Don't go out with others.
4. Oh Grietje, dry your tears,
My dearest, cry no more,
You will remain my sweetheart,
Time will quickly pass.
5. Don't be jealous, my dear Griet,
I say to you farewell,
The brown girls, I will not kiss
Their skin is so black.
6. But when the mate came to Oosterstrand
His heart was at ease,
Many brown skinned girls
had been kissed by him.
7. But had Grietje been true to him.
No, when she heard the news,
She became that day the bosun's wife
Just as he returned back home.

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