

Act II: Ribbon Dance – Pas de deux de Fanny Elssler

The 'Ribbon Dance' is an extract from Act II's picnic *pas de deux*, in which Lise and Colas declare their love for one another. The ribbons are introduced by Lise's friends, who sit watching the entertainment, then rise to join the couple. Now, instead of just one length of ribbon, there are eight, and the friends combine with Lise and Colas to create a series of shapes and patterns – 'Oyster Shell', 'Peacock' etc – culminating in the famous 'Spinning Wheel' which rotates, with the ribbons held in tension, around the tiny point of Lise's shoe. Once the ribbons are relinquished by Lise, the girls retreat to the background, placing them in different formations to create criss-crossing patterns as a backdrop to the love duet.

Phrase
Intro

Choreographic device(s)
Still background frame established – 'Oyster Shell'

Movement

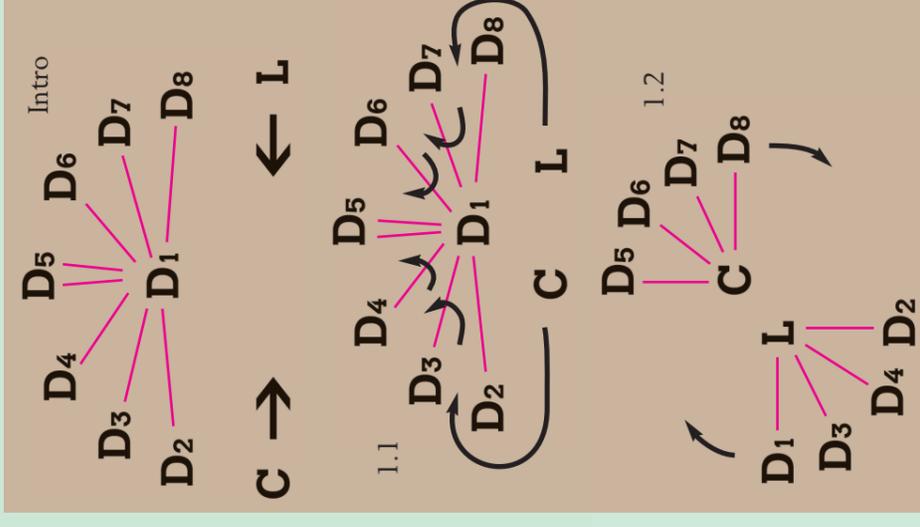
Girls: rise to take starting positions with **D1** sitting centre-stage, holding all the ribbon ends in her lap; ribbons are splaying out in an oyster shell shape, held with the arm closest to the centre (**D5** holds two); other arms in *demi-seconde*, feet in classical position.

1.1 Lise and Colas: unison / mirroring
The frame shifts gently as they pass.

Lise (stage left) and **Colas** (stage right) approach each other from downstage corners (step, step, *dégagé derrière*) reach to each other (step, step into fourth *croisé* position), Lise on pointe, Colas demi-pointe; kiss and touch hands. They pass round **D8** and **D2** and reach towards each other (fourth position, bending sideways); pass under **D3** and **D7**'s ribbons turning to face upstage (fifth position); pass under **D4** and **D6**'s ribbons and step *soutenu* to face each other in the next gap; step together; Colas hold Lise's hands and waist.

1.2 Lise highlighted and supported by Colas, framed by ribbons

Lise: takes all ribbons from **D1**; *piqués* into *attitude derrière* on left leg, facing upstage left corner. **Colas:** supports Lise by holding her right hand. **Girls:** make a circle around Lise and Colas, holding ribbons high in right hands, facing clockwise, and *bourrée* round.



2.1 Girls divide into two groups – 'Peacock'

Colas: as girls *bourrée*, promenades Lise round a half-circle in *attitude*. **Girls: D1, D2, D3** and **D4** rotate through 180° and finish upstage left; **D5, D6, D7** and **D8** rotate further, through 270° finishing upstage, right (see Figure 2.1b).

Lise and **Colas:** finish kneeling, holding ribbons low.

Girls: dégagé on the right leg towards Lise and Colas, with arms gesturing towards them.

2.2 The two groups combine again

Lise: bourrées in parallel through Colas's group of girls, with her girls following; ends in a *penché*, left leg raised, leaning on Colas's left shoulder with ribbons held high. **Colas:** holds a deep lunge on the right leg, looking back at Lise, ribbons held low in the left hand.

Colas's girls: bourrée en place holding ribbons high in the right hand.

2.3 Same shapes but different facing and different levels

Colas's girls: kneel. **Colas:** switches to lunge on left leg. **Lise:** turns out of *penché* to step over **D5**'s ribbon and lead her girls round to downstage, right, just in front of Colas; steps and *penchés* on *croisé* leg, facing stage-left and resting on Colas's right shoulder.

Lise's girls: make a small semi-circle, stage-right, standing on right foot with ribbons held high with both hands.

