**Midnight Blues Solo**

By: Roy, Sue, and Mark Bradshaw and Julie MacDonald, 2001: couple)

**(**by: Lorenza Residori - Daniel Morandin - Marie Gaudy 2015: solo dance)

Music: - Blues 4/4

Tempo: - 92 beats per minute

Pattern: Set

**Step 1:** choctaw LFI aimed toward the long axis (for one beat), followed by a progressive, step 2.

**Step 2**: RFO-swing-bracket-bracket-counter (for 7 beats total), composed as follows:

* a RFO progressive on the first beat of the step aimed toward the long axis;
* a forward swing of the free leg on the second beat of the step, and held in front for the third beat of the step, beginning toward the long axis and becoming parallel to it;
* an outside bracket (from RFO to RBI) on the fourth beat of the step, beginning to move away from the long axis;
* an inside bracket (from RBI to RFO) on the fifth beat of the step, which continues in the direction of the previous step;
* an outside counter (from RFO to RBO) on the sixth beat of the step, which finishes almost parallel to the long axis on the seventh beat. With the end of the counter and the beginning of the following step, the skater crosses the long axis.

During step 2 the free leg movements are optional.

**Step 3:** XB-LBO for two beats with a lift of the free leg; this step begins parallel to the long axis and descends toward the long side barrier.

**Step 4:** XB-RBO (for one beat), parallel to the short axis, is followed by **step 5**, a cross stroke XS-LBI (for one beat) aimed toward the long side barrier.

**Step 6:** a progressive RBO (for one beat) and **step 7:** progressive LBI (for one beat).

The sequence of steps 4, 5, 6, 7 and the first two beats of step 8 form a lobe that aims initially toward the long side barrier, becomes parallel to it, and then moves away from it with step 7 and the first two beats of step 8.

**Step 8:** progressive RBOI-3t (for 6 beats total) consists of a change of edge on the third beat and a three turn on the fourth beat; this step is aimed initially toward the long axis, becoming parallel to it, and finishes toward the long side barrier of the rink. The movement of the free leg during the execution of step 8 is optional.

**Step 9:** a one-beat cross stroke XS-LFI parallel to the short side barrier, is followed by **step 10**, a wide step RFI-3t (for two beats total). During step 10, the wide step is performed aiming toward the long side barrier (on the first beat), the three turn from RFI to RBO continues to curve toward the long side barrier, with a return of the free leg bent and held beside the inside of the skating leg (tuck on the second beat).

**Step 11:** for one beat, is a cross stroke XS-LBI that curves to become parallel to the long side barrier.

**Step 12:** a dropped chasse RBO-3t for 4 beats total, distributed as follows:

* a dropped chasse on the first beat, beginning parallel to the long side barrier and moving away from it;
* a three turn (from RBO to RFI) on the second beat of the step with the free leg bent in front, close to the skating leg. The three turn begins parallel to the short side of the rink and finishes with a backward extension of the free leg for the following beats, curving toward the long axis and becoming almost parallel to it.

**Step 13:** is a two-beat LFO aimed toward the center of the rink, parallel to the long axis, followed by a XR-RFO, **step 14** (for one beat), and **step 15**, for 5 beats total composed as follows:

* a progressive LFI, on the first beat, followed by a forward swing of the free leg on the second beat, and held in front on the third beat; the aim on the third beat is perpendicular to the long axis;
* an inside counter (from LFI to LBI) with the free leg in back at the end of the turn for two beats; the counter is near the long axis, and the exit edge begins parallel to the short axis, moves toward the long side barrier, and concludes toward the short axis.

**Step 16:** is a chasse RBI, on the “and” count, followed by **step 17** LBO (for two beats), parallel to the short axis.

**Step 18:** a two-beat RBO that begins toward the long side barrier and becomes parallel to it to prepare for the next step, **step 19**, a two-beat mohawk LFO, which begins parallel to the long side barrier and moves toward the long axis.

**Step 20:** a XR-RFO-3t for four beats. The three turn is performed on the second beat of the step, at the short axis, with the free leg held close to the skating leg and then extending in back for the third and fourth beats. This step begins toward the long axis, then moves away from it to descend toward the barrier.

**Step 21:** a choctaw LFO for one beat followed by a crossed chasse, XCh-RFI (**step 22**).

**Step 23:** a two-beat LFO on an outside edge beginning parallel to the long side barrier and finishing toward the long axis.

**Step 24:** the skater performs a XR-RFO for one beat and prepares for **step 25** (for three beats total), composed of a one-beat cross behind XB-LFI followed by an Ina Bauer and a three turn for two beats (Ina Bauer: the bodyweight is over both feet supported on the ground with the left foot/edge forward on a LFI with the corresponding leg bent; the other foot’s tracing is farther behind and closer to the long axis on a RBI aimed opposite from the left foot with the leg extended; the feet are on different tracings). At the end of step 25, a quick three turn is performed (from LFI to LBO) on the “and” count. The aim of steps 24–25 is initially toward the long axis, becoming parallel to it during the Ina Bauer, and moving away from it with the three turn.

**Step 26** (for two beats) is composed of a cross stroke XS-RBI followed by a quick wide step LBI (**step 27**) on the “and” count.

**Step 28** (for 4 beats total) is composed of a RBO (for two beats) followed by two quick three turns (from RBO to RFI, and from RFI to RBO, for ½ beat each) followed by a forward extension of the free leg for two beats. The quick three turns are performed parallel to the long side barrier, and on the last two beats the RBO edge curves away from it.

**Steps 29–30:** a mohawk LFO (step 29) for one beat that moves away from the long side barrier, becoming parallel to the short side barrier with step 30, a one-beat progressive RFI aimed toward the long axis.

**Step 31** (for two beats) begins with a progressive LFO for one beat, parallel to the long axis, followed by a rocker on the second beat of the step that finishes to LBO and becomes parallel to the long axis.

**Step 32** (for 4 beats total) is a XB-RBI-3t in which the three turn is performed on the third beat of the step, and which begins aiming toward the center of the rink and becomes parallel to the short axis.

**Step 33** is a closed choctawto LBI for two beats, which finishes with the free leg in front with respect to the skating leg, followed by a wide step RBI, **step 34**, on the “and” count, and **step 35**, a progressive for one beat that descends toward the short side barrier.

**Step 36** is a two-beat cross stroke XS-RBI that curves toward the long axis, followed by **step 37**, a lateral lunge (Thrust) LBI for two beats, performed with the left skating leg bent and the right leg extended outward, on a RBI, with the front inside wheel supported on the skating surface. Step 37 begins parallel to the long axis and curves toward the short side barrier.

**Step 38:** stroke RBO for one beat, beginning parallel to the short side of the rink and aimed toward the long side barrier, followed by **step 39**, a one-beat XS-LBI, which continues the aim of the previous step, toward the long side barrier, becoming almost parallel to it.

**Step 40:** RBO-swing for four beats with a backward swing of the free leg on the third beat of the step, which begins parallel to the long side barrier and finishes toward the long axis in preparation for the choctaw LFI (step 1 of the dance).

NOTE: The choctaw LFI (step 1), is necessary to be able to perform the restart of the dance, therefore it must be performed three times during the entire execution of the compulsory dance (at the beginning of the first repetition, at the beginning of the second repetition, and at the end of the second repetition).

**KEY POINTS**

**MIDNIGHT BLUES SOLO**

**Section 1:**

* **Step 1:** choctaw LFI with correct technique and edges before and after the turn.
* **Step 2:** RFO bracket – RBI bracket – RFO outside counter with correct technique and edges before and after each turn; the required turns must form lobes pronounced by the depth of the edges.
* **Step 8:** RBOI-3t for six beats total with the change of edge on the third beat of the step and the three turn on the fourth beat.

**Section 2:**

* **Step 15:** five beats total, composed as follows:
  + a progressive LFI on the first beat, followed by a forward swing of the free leg on the second beat and held in front on the third beat;
  + an inside counter (from LFI to LBI) with the free leg held in back at the end of the turn for two beats; the counter: correct technical execution, required timing, and edges before and after the turn.
* **Step 25:** XB-LFI-Ina Bauer-3t: correct technical execution of the Ina Bauer with the left leg bent, right leg in back, feet on separate tracks and in opposite directions (left foot on inside forward, and right foot on inside backward); the left foot is on a track that is more to the inside with respect to the right foot, which, while curving, is closer to the long axis.
* **Step 28:** RBO-3t-3t: correct technical execution of the two three turns, correct timing of the turns (½ beat each), correct edge RBO at the end of the second three turn.

**Section 3:**

* **Steps 31–32–33:** correct technical execution of the LFO outside rocker (step 31, for two beats); XB-RBI-3t (step 32, for four beats) with well pronounced edges on the entrance and exit of the three turn; closed choctaw LBI with the free leg in front at the end of the turn (step 33, for two beats).
* **Step 37: Lateral Lunge (Thrust):** pronounced inside edge with correct technique, maximum amplitude of movement, and front inside wheel of the right foot supported in back on the skating surface, and right leg extended.
* **Step 40:** RBO-swing-choctaw: swing on the third beat of the step, maintaining an outside edge through the end of the fourth beat in preparation for step 1 (choctaw LFI), with correct technique and edges before and after the choctaw.