

RHYTHM BLUES

MUSIC RHYTHM: Blues 4/4
TEMPO: 22 four-beat measures per minute; 88 beats per minute

ISU MUSIC
INTRODUCTION: 16 beats, 10.9 seconds

PATTERN-TIMING: 1 = :22; 2 = :44; 3 = 1:05; 4 = 1:27

DURATION: Test 2 = :44
Competition 3 = 1:05
Adult Solo Dance Competition 2 = :44

SKATER'S
CHOICE TIMING: See Skater's Choice Pattern Dance Timing Chart on usfigureskating.org under the "Technical Info" link

PATTERN: Set

TEST: Preliminary

The Rhythm Blues is skated in Kilian position, and both partners skate the same steps. A slow tempo and forward skating make this dance appear deceptively simple. However, correct timing, pattern and proper expression are required to make the dance pleasing to watch. Attention to depth of edges and proper curvature of lobes is essential. Care must also be taken to fully complete lobes on the correct edge. Partners must utilize knee bends and free leg extensions for blues interpretation, as well as smooth, flowing movement.

Skated in Kilian position throughout, the dance begins with a progressive sequence and outside swing roll. Timing becomes more intricate with Steps 5 to 10. Step 5 must be held for two full beats as it begins a "promenade" sequence similar to that before the choctaw in the pre-gold Blues. Steps 6 and 7 are each one beat, Step 8 is two beats and Steps 9 and 10 are forward inside swing rolls each beginning on beat three of the bar. These swing rolls allow for blues expression and require well-timed free leg swings. Strong progressive strokes, Steps 11 to 13, are needed to maintain speed through the cross behinds, so there is no struggle to regain speed on the repeat. The XBs, which complete the dance, must be crisp and precise, accompanied by soft knee action and a rounded end pattern. Note that the XB-LFO on Step 15 is optional. Step 15 may be skated as an open stroke.

INVENTOR: Robert Craigin

HISTORY: Originally a roller skating dance, the Rhythm Blues was originally selected for the pre-bronze dance test in 1988 after being suggested by Bette Wilson of the Utah FSC.

RHYTHM BLUES — SET PATTERN DANCE

