

Translation of “La gavotte s’est dansée à Rochester (USA)”

The Gavotte Performed in Rochester (USA)

The group “Astour,” of the *Cercle Celtique* of Rennes Introduces the Music and Dance of Brittany Across the Atlantic.

Photo Caption: Eight musicians and five dancers of the group “Astour,” of the *Cercle Celtique* of Rennes were invited, July 25 and 26, to the Ganondagan Native American Festival in Rochester in the United States.

The eight musicians and five dancers of the group “Astour” of the *Cercle Celtique* haven’t always experienced the success they had in Rochester. Rochester, sister city of Rennes, hosted them for a week during which they gave a series of performances. The shows were performed, in traditional costumes from the early 19th Century, at the Memorial Art Gallery and during the Ganondagan Native American Festival on July 25 and 26, which was organized by the Seneca Nation of the Iroquois Confederacy.

Improvised Presentations:

- “At the end of each concert, we encouraged the audience to dance with us, and that went very well,” shared Julien Jacques, the guitarist for the group.
- “The entire group was invited to the home of a woman from Rochester for a garden party. We began dancing and playing when suddenly, all of the neighbors arrived and joined us. It was great fun!” recalls Hervé Lambrecht, founder of “Astour” and also a dancer. “Yet according to Eric Beaty, President of the Rochester/Rennes Sister City Committee, the woman who invited us normally never sees her neighbors. It was so exceptional for them to gather for a party.”

In order to present a diversity of Breton music and dance, the group performed works from Haute-Bretagne, dances in the round from the south of L’ill-et-Vilaine, but also dances from Basse-Bretagne, like the Ficel and the Gavotte.

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