

4
Scottish Country Dances

Devised by Peter Marshall

City of Wisteria

A 3 x 32 Strathspey for 3 couples in a 3 couple set.

The dance commemorates the 15th Anniversary, in autumn 2019, of Kasukabe Sugar Candie Scottish Dancing Group. Kasukabe City is famous for its Wisteria, one of its trees is over 1200 years old, and there is a wide main street opposite the station named Wisteria Street. Members of this group have always made me very welcome and so it is a pleasure to devise this dance for them.

Recommended Tune: Name not yet known written by Luke Brady.

Alternative Tune: Cradle Song (James Scott Skinner)

Suggested Recording: James Coutts "Carlingwork Collection Volume 1" CD reference BLCD001, track 11 "Jessie Cannon's Strathspey".

Bars

1-8 Three couple espagnole as follows:-

1-2 All cross the dance to the opposite side: 1st man dance above 1st lady; 1st and 2nd ladies lead across and change right hand up/down; 2nd and 3rd men lead across and change right hand up/down; 3rd lady dance below 3rd man

3-4 All cross the dance to their own side: 2nd lady dance above 1st man; 1st and 3rd men lead across and change right hand up/down; 1st and 3rd ladies lead across and change right hand up/down; 2nd man dance across below 3rd lady
Order is now 2, 3, 1 on ladies' side and 3, 1, 2 on men's side.

5-8 All turn opposite person once round, 2nd lady and 3rd man with right hand, 3rd lady and 1st man with left hand and 1st lady and 2nd man with right hand (that is dancers in 1st and 3rd places right hand and dancers in 2nd place left hand).

9-16 All set, cross left hand and chase anticlockwise to own side.
Order is now 1, 3, 2 on ladies' side and 2, 1, 3 on men's side

17-24 Three couple bourrel:

2nd man and 3rd lady, also 1st man and 2nd lady set advancing and turn just over half way with both hands, releasing hands on bar 20 and turn right about to finish back to back in the centre, men facing down and ladies facing up. At the same time 1st lady and 3rd man dance anticlockwise around the other 4 dancers to finish facing partner up and down the set.

All set to partner and turn three quarters with both hands to finish on own side.
Order is now 3, 2, 1 all on own side.

25-32 2nd and 1st couples dance 3/4 rights and lefts (6 bars) then all set.
Order is now 3, 1, 2 all on own side.

Repeat the dance twice more from new positions.

Peter Marshall November 2018

Kawagoe Matsuri Strathspey

A 4 x 32 Strathspey for 4 couples in a 4 couple set.

The dance is in honour of the Alba Scottish Country Dance Groups in Japan, taught by Masako Nomura and who made me so welcome.

Recommended Tune: Masako Nomura's Strathspey (Iain MacPhail)

Recommended Alternative Tune: Miss Fay Sharp (Sandy Nixon)

Recommended Recording of Alternative Tune: James Coutts "The Joy of Sets" CD, 3TRCD02, Track 12 Skyte Neuk

Bars

1-8 1st and 2nd couples, also 3rd and 4th couples, dance a diamond poussette.

9-16 4 couple espagnole danced as follows:

9-10 All cross the dance to the opposite side: 1st man dance above 1st lady; 1st and 2nd ladies lead across and change up/down; 2nd and 3rd men lead across and change up/down; 3rd and 4th ladies lead across and change up/down; 4th man dance below 4th lady

11-12 All cross the dance to their own side: 2nd lady dance above 1st man; 1st and 3rd men lead across and change up/down; 1st and 4th ladies lead across and change up/down; 2nd and 4th men lead across and change up/down; 3rd lady dance below 4th man. Order is now 2, 4, 1, 3 on ladies' side and 3, 1, 4, 2 on men's side.

13-16 All turn opposite person once round, 2nd lady and 3rd man with right hand, 4th lady and 1st man with left hand, 1st lady and 4th man with right hand and 3rd lady and 2nd man with left hand.

17-24 All 4 ladies pass opposite person by the right shoulder and dance clockwise half way to own side of the dance.

Order is now 3, 1, 4, 2 all on own side of the dance

25-32 All join hands and set to partner, turn partner once round with both hands, and then 3rd and 1st couples (at top), also 4th and 2nd couples (at bottom), circle 4 hands round to the left.

Repeat the dance three more times from new positions.

The Golden Castle of Gifu

32 bar Reel for 3 couples in a longwise set

This dance is written to congratulate Gifu (Japan) Scottish Country Dance Group on reaching their 50th (Golden) Anniversary. Bars 1-8 represent dancers travelling to Gifu. Bars 9-16 represent enjoying dancing with Gifu members. Bars 17-24 represent meeting and leaving Gifu on many occasions. Bars 25-32 represent the friendship with Gifu members. Thank you to Mayumi Nagamine for suggesting the title, inspired by the sight of Gifu Castle.

Recommended Tune: Bessie Bell's Reel (Jim Johnstone)

Suggested Recording: Track 12 (Jan Maree) on Marian Anderson's Sunday Class Book 2 CD, TSC02MA

Bars

- 1-6 1st couple set, 1st lady, followed by 1st man, cast to below the 3rd couple in the middle of the set facing up, nearer hands briefly joined. 2nd couple step up on bars 5 and 6.
- 7-8 1st couple dance up to 2nd place opposite side and face out.
- 9-16 1st couple dance reels of 3 on opposite side with 2nd and 3rd couples. 1st couple pass 1st corner Right shoulder to begin. End with 1st couple back to back in the middle of the set facing 1st corners.
- 17-22 1st couple dance first 6 bars of Hello Goodbye setting (set to corners and partner).
- 23-24 1st couple turn RH to face up in the middle of the set, 1st man with partner on his right. Meanwhile 2nd and 3rd couples dance in (skip change) and face up.
- 25-32 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance a 3 couple allemande, the arms coming up together at the start of bar 25, finishing in the order 3, 1, 2 ready for the next time through.

Note: Although written and demonstrated as a 3 x 32 Reel, it could be danced 8 times through in a 4 couple set, the progression may seem strange but it works fine.

Peter Marshall September 2017

Cath's Crown of Pennies

A 32 Bar Strathspey for 3 Couples

This dance is in celebration of Cath Monument's Special Birthday in May 2014. Cath enjoys dancing strongly, hence the Scott Skinner tunes, and she is always willing to help other dancers, at classes and at dances. There are several clues as to which special birthday she is celebrating.

Recommended Tune: The Laird O' Thrums (Scott Skinner)

Suggested Recording: Track 7 Baldovan Square on Marian Anderson's Highlander Music Volume 12 CD, HRMCD512

Bars

- 1-4 1st couple turn partner with right hand and cast one place, 2nd couple step up on bars 3 & 4
- 5-8 2nd, 1st & 3rd couples turn partner with both hands one and a half times to end on the opposite side, 2nd and 3rd couples curving round to face in, 1st couple remain facing out in 2nd place
- 9-16 1st couple dance right shoulder round 1st corner position, cross right hand up and down the set, dance right shoulder round 2nd corner position and cross over giving right hand to own side of the set. *Meanwhile* 1st corner positions (2nd lady & 3rd man) dance a half turn and twirl to change places, then 2nd corner positions (2nd man & 3rd lady) dance a half turn and twirl to change places.
- 17-24 3rd, 1st & 2nd couples flow into a circle (6 hands round) and back
- 25-32 1st & 2nd couples in 2nd & 3rd places dance an all round diamond poussette

Note on the half turn and twirl:

The corners dance in on bar 1, half turn each other with right hand and face each other on bar 2, cast pulling right shoulder back and dance out on bars 3 and 4, curving round into place, having changed places with each other.

Peter Marshall May 2014