

Suggested music: "Culla Bay" by Muriel Johnstone's Band

Strathspey 4c,4cset (4x32)

The Dark-eyed Sailor

A returning mariner, seeing his sweetheart walking alone in the evening, offers himself as her escort. She accepts, and as they walk, pours out her heart about her fears that her dark-eyed sailor, William, away for 7 years must have drowned. She is torn between ecstasy and embarrassment when her escort (William, obviously now with a beard) shows her the ring * that she had pressed into his hand as he set out all those years ago. She joyfully welcomes him back and throws a grand ball to celebrate their re-union

1-4 1L turns L & weaves Rsh to 2L down the ladies side. As she casts round 4L she sees 1M casting round 3L & crosses to the men's side as if to avoid him.

as...

1M casts, Lsh back dances thro' the 2M position, across the set & casts round 3L exactly as 1L casts round 4L. 2s step up on bars 2&3.

5-8 1M greets 1L between the 4s. They take Rh & lead up to the top of set, crossing and casting to 2nd place own side.

9-16 1s dance the **Tilt**, then (1)s dance a **Tupney turn**, but turn 1/4 to finish in the centre, on opposite sides facing down with nearer hands joined. 3s step in to face up on b16.

17-20 (1)s +3s set & interchange, 1s casting out & 3s dancing up crossing. 2s & 4s step in on bar 20.

21-24 2s+(3)s & (1)s +4s set & interchange as previous figure but with 2s casting 2 places, 4s dancing up 2 places & 1s crossing down Lh

End 3 4 2 1 & all flow into the following circle

25-32 All circle left right round. On bar 29, drop hands & twirl Rsh back on 1 place individually, then retake hands & complete the circle.

N B the sequence of leads is 1s 3s 2s 4s. Check your set position on each repeat!

This dance takes its name from & re-tells the story of the folksong....*.hence the leading man is asked to gently show his ring hand to his lady as they dance bar 14.

Twists & Turns BP15 (see index) fully describes the highlighted new figures

