

2011 Big Dance Performance

A 7 x 32 bar mixed jig/reel for 8 people in multiple formations.

Composed 6 May 2011 by Stanford Ceili.

Stanford Ceili Performance Choreography #3.

This dance is set to “David’s Jig/Valerie Pringle’s Reel,” by Natalie MacMaster (“Yours Truly,” 2006). 32 bars from the initial jig portion and 32 bars from the reel portion were deleted.

This choreography incorporated components of both the Peanut Butter Jelly Time and 2011 Fashion Show choreographies, which had been danced 1 month prior. For sample videos, see respectively:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Baw193i0Z1A>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FINFq1LskEk>

4 dancers (Dancer 1, Dancer 2, Dancer 3, Dancer 4) form a standard 2-couple set for most of the dance, with the top couple (Dancer 1, Dancer 2) on the Right side (as facing the audience). The other 4 dancers (the “Thieves”) stand behind a curtain until their entrance during the reel portion.

Music starts as a jig. Use jig footwork. (Music is preceded by 4 beats, to indicate tempo.)

(64) [0:02] **Chutney Block.**

(16) [0:02] Opening.

(16) [0:18] Men’s Men’s Chain, Ladies’ Chain.

(16) [0:33] Slow Heys For 4.

Ladies’ diagonal only. Keep arms mostly extended; just bend them slightly from the previous Chains.¹

(16) [0:49] Hey All 4 (“Bowtie Hey”).

Use the end positions of the Slow Hey to define the corners of the square that is traversed.

Music changes melody at 1:04, to a reel. Use reel footwork.

¹The intention here and with the Bowtie Hey is to cover more of the dance floor.

- (64) [1:04] **Bronnwyn Block.** First 3 parts of body.
- (16) [1:04] Angle-Saxon.²
On diagonal crossings, men incorporate moves from Peanut Butter Jelly Time choreography.³ Specifically, the following are incorporated: butt swipe with extended Left arm [0:23], back-and-forth with Right arm on head and Left arm extended [0:49], chest wash [1:29], and butt wash [1:27].
- (16) [1:20] Celtic Cross.
Use “Mini-Maxi Fruit” variant when passing opposite in the middle: ladies spin over Left shoulder three-quarters, instead of turning over Right shoulder one-quarter; men swing for three-quarters, then spin away from each other (over Right shoulder) in the opposite direction from normal.
Men “bounce” off each other when they first meet in the middle on the last bar.
- (8) [1:35] Hey For 4.
Finish with dancers facing audience, with front pair further apart than back pair (like a trapezoid), so that all 4 dancers can be seen.

Thieves emerge from curtain at 1:42, forming a line behind the trapezoid, facing audience.

- (64) [1:42] **Fashion Show.** Dancers and Thieves.
The 4 components of the “body” (Starburst, arm swish and roll, kick-ball-change, and Pac Man) are danced — see Fashion Show video [1:13]. However, although each component normally takes 4 bars of music, here only half is danced (2 bars each).

²Contract the space slightly during first 2 bars to “normal” size.

³Times specified for the PBJ moves are based on the aforementioned PBJ video.

(64) [1:50] **Wedding Reel Block.**

(32) [1:50] Back Star.

Ladies dance their Fancy Set⁴ where they are, then top lady turns over Left shoulder to face neighbor man.

Thieves retreat to back corners and wait.

(8) [2:13] Shadow Around The House.

(32) [2:21] Southern Cross.

Men arc with their initial 7s to expand the set.⁵ Ladies leap out from their initial turn to “square” the set.

At end, dancers “cheat” toward partners, in preparation for Polka Set body.

(16) [2:37] **Kerry Set Block.**

(4) [2:37] Polka (body).

(4) [2:41] Toss Across.

(8) [2:45] Repeat.

All are in opposite’s place.

(16) [2:52] **Death Spiral.**

(8) [2:52] Polka (ceili style) once counterclockwise around stage, men initially passing back-to-back, traversing the left half of the stage relative to where they started (*opposite’s* place), returning to those starting places.

(4) [3:00] Toss Across.

(4) [3:04] Couples pivot once around other couple (8 times). Ladies have returned home, while men are still in opposite’s place.

Music changes melody back to initial jig at 3:08. Use jig footwork.

⁴See “Fancy Set” note at end.

⁵Again, the intention is to cover more of the dance floor.

(16) [3:08] **Thieves Enter.**

- (4) [3:08] Final 4 bars of Iron Hand (7s with *opposite*, turning with *partner*), except turn by Right only halfway. Turns are “slotted” to create a spring-like effect (like with Lindy Hop) and not circular.
- (1) [3:12] Pull by Right past partner.
Meanwhile, Thieves begin moving toward dancers.
- (3) [3:13] Turn opposite by Left halfway.⁶
Thieves meet the “partner” they are to “steal.” (Pairings: Dancer 1 and Thief 1, Dancer 2 and Thief 2, Dancer 3 and Thief 3, Dancer 4 and Thief 4.)
- (4) [3:15] Thieves and their partners turn by Left until roughly in position to form ring for Flying Christmas.
- (2) [3:19] All dance in to form basket.
- (2) [3:21] *Stop* to ensure hand-holds are *solid*. Men take nearby men’s elbows (as in elbow turns) while ladies take nearby ladies elbows over men’s arms.⁷

(16) [3:23] **Flying Christmas.**

- (4) [3:23] Circle Circle Left, as ladies prepare.
- (8) [3:27] Ladies fly by lifting feet, not jumping into air, supported by ringing men.
- (4) [3:33] Ladies land, while circle continues ringing Left. Circle opens on last 2 bars as each Thief and partner travel while continuing to turn (as a couple, clockwise) to finishing places. (As facing the audience, front to back, left to right: Thief 4 and Dancer 4, Thief 1 and Dancer 1, Thief 3 and Dancer 3, Thief 2 and Dancer 2. The front couples are split wider than the rear couples, like a trapezoid.)

⁶Use a wide arc for “effect.”

⁷To help with height differential, men bend knees on the first bar, then stand up on second bar.

(4) [3:39] **Finish**, With (Swing) Style.

Thief 4 and Dancer 4: “Throw Out,” followed by “T-Drop” (follow drop, supported by arms). Thief 1 and Dancer 1: “Death Drop” (2-hand follow drop), with a “Side Lean” for preparation. Thief 3 and Dancer 3: “Airplane,” or “Half Moon Flip” (follow wrap-around aerial, into “plane” pose above lead’s shoulders). Thief 2 and Dancer 2: “Flying Cherry Drop” (follow wrap-around aerial, into catch, with follow’s head pointed down toward audience).

These 4 bars are not included in the dance length at the top.

“*Fancy Set*,” danced by ladies during Back Star:

(1) Over, two, three.

(1) 3 jumps switching feet (on first 3 beats).

(1) Sink & Grind.

(1) 3 Rocks, as in hornpipe setting step (on first 3 beats).

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Thieves emerge from curtain at 1:42, forming a line behind the trapezoid, facing audience.

(64) [1:42] **Fashion Show.** Dancers and Thieves.

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(16) [3:08] **Thieves Enter.**

(16) [3:23] **Flying Christmas.**

(4) [3:39] **Finish,** With (Swing) Style.