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Dance Research Committee: Rick Sherman and Bill Lidicker

Culla Bay

(Scotland)

Culla (COO-lah) Bay is a 32 bar strathspey devised by Ann Dix of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, London Branch. Culla Bay is on the tiny island of Benbecula, between North Uist and South Uist in the Outer Hebrides. The dance was taught by Jennifer Kelly at the 2007 Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

CD: The Breakdown, Band 2 (The Macauleys of Benbecula). 4/4 meter

Formation: Four cpls in square formation. Cpl 1 has back to music; other cpls numbered in CW order.

Steps: Reel of four*, Hands across*, Cast*, Set*

Hands around: Designated cpls join hands to form a circle, and dance R or L as indicated.

Styling: As in all Scottish dances, eye contact among dancers is important, including contact between ptrs during reels of four when ptrs are moving in parallel (bars 9-16).

* Described in "Scottish Glossary" of *Steps and Styling (rev. 1996)*, Folk Dance Federation of CA, Inc.

Measures	4/4 meter	PATTERN

Chord INTRODUCTION Bows and curtseys.

1-4 M1 with W3 and W1 with M3 approach giving R hands (bar 1); they dance a close CW turn half way around to face each other while remaining close together (bar 2); all cast over R shldr to dance twd opp place (bar 3); continue to opp places and turn 1/4 to face R (bar 4).

5-8 M2 with W4 and M4 with W2 dance bars 1-4, but end facing into the set. Cpls 1 and 3 dance one place CW to the side positions (bars 5, 6); they then dance twd the ctr of the set passing the approaching side cpls by the R shldr (bar 7); and turn to face out as the side cpls turn to face in (bar 8). M1 now faces M2, W1 faces W2 while M3 standing behind W1 faces M4 and W3 standing behind M1 faces W4.

9-16 All dance a complete R-shldr reel of four across the set (ptrs move on parallel tracks).

17-20 Cpls 1 and 2 and at the same time cpls 3 and 4 dance four Hands around to L for 1 complete turn, opening out at end to face opp cpl.

21-22 Retaining nearer hands with ptr, all set to R and back to L.

23-24 Cpls 1 and 2 and simultaneously cpls 3 and 4 dance R hands across half way around.

25-28 Cpls 2 and 4 turn to their L and dance L hands across once around in the ctr of the set to finish facing out (cpl 2 faces cpl 1 while cpl 4 faces cpl 3).

29-32 M2 dances between M1 and W1 while W2 passes R shldrs with W1 (bar 29) and both turn R to dance CW into head pos (bars 30-32). Meanwhile, M4 dances between M3 and W3, while W4 passes R shldrs with W3, and then they continue CW into head pos.

Dance repeats three more times, so that each cpl dances twice as heads and twice as sides.