

THE KERRY REEL

(Ireland)

Kerry Reel was presented at the 1964 Statewide Institute in San Jose by Madelynne Greene, who learned it from Maureen Hall, a noted authority on Irish dancing, from Cork, Ireland.

MUSIC: Record: "My Ireland" Capitol T10028, Side 2, Band 3, "Snow on the Mountains" or any Irish reel. As there is extra music to the recommended record, lift the needle at end of dance or repeat dance until music ends.

FORMATION: Trios facing audience, M between 2W, inside hands joined at shoulder height, elbows almost touching. Free hands are held at sides, arms relaxed, inside edge of wrist close to body, palm facing bwd.

STEPS "Threes": These are danced like small pas de basque steps, keeping toes turned out, and AND they may be done either traveling or in place.

STYLING: Traveling: Leap fwd R (ct 1), step on ball of L across in front of R (ct &), closing step R to L (ct 2). Next step starts L.

In place: Leap R close beside L (ct 1), step on ball of L across in front of R (ct &), step R in place (ct 2). Next step starts L.

"Sevens": (2 meas): To move swd L begin with wt on L and swing R behind L (ct & of preceding meas), step R behind L, bending both knees slightly (ct 1), step on ball of L to L (ct &). Repeat action of cts 1,& two more times (cts 2,&; meas 2, cts 1,&). Step R behind L (meas 2, ct 2), hold (meas 2, ct &). . . . To move swd R reverse footwork and direction. Knees are bent on accenting cts so that the feeling is "down"; on the unaccented cts step on the ball of the ft.

A tall, straight, good posture is important throughout the dance. Unless otherwise specified, "Threes" are danced throughout--even when waiting in place. All steps start R also unless otherwise specified.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

8 Introduction. Trios stand with R toe pointed fwd on the floor.

I. LEAD OUT

1-4 All dance fwd with 4 "Threes".

5-6 All dancing in place, W make one complete turn inward under joined hands with M (RW turns CCW, LW -- CW).

7-8 RW go under arch formed by M and LW, and M follow RW under arch as LW moves fwd CW around them. Finish with backs to audience.

9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 returning to original places, LW going under arch formed by M and RW. Finish facing audience.

II. SEVENS IN A LINE

1-2 Release hands and all dance "Sevens" swd L.

3-4 Dance "Sevens" swd R back to place, turning individually 1/4 CW on last ct &.

5-8 All dance "Sevens" again swd L twd audience and then back swd R, turning 1/4 CW on last ct &.

9-12 Dance "Sevens" again swd L and then back swd R, turning 1/4 CW on last ct &.

13-16 Dance "Sevens" once more swd L away from audience and then back swd R, turning 1/4 CW on last ct to finish in original place.

THE KERRY REEL (continued)

III. M TURNS W

- 1-4 M and RW join R hands with shaking-hand hold about shoulder height with an easy tension in the arms and turn once CW; LW dance in place.
- 5-8 M and LW join L hands with shaking-hand hold and turn once CCW.
M returns to front of RW on meas 8 to finish R hands joined with her, R shoulders adjacent, the set forming a small triangle (See Diagram 1).

IV. ARCHES IN A TRIANGLE

- 1-2 LW go under arch formed by M and RW joined R hands.
- 3-4 LW turn 1/2 CW in place as M and RW change places by drawing elbows close together on first "Three" and then turning 1/2 CW and backing into opp place.
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig IV), LW returning to place. On last meas M and LW join R hands.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig IV) with RW going under arch formed by M and LW. Finish with M and LW still joining R hands.

V. STAR

- 1-4 All join R hands in a 3-hand star and turn once CW.
- 5-8 M release R hand and dance in place facing W, while W continue in a 2-hand star turning once CW.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig V) forming a L-hand star and turning CCW. Finish with WL shoulder and MR shoulder twd audience.

VI. M SPLITS THE LINE

- 1-4 All dance "Sevens" swd L, not traveling too far, and 2 "Threes" in place turning to face ctr of set and all join hands to form a ring.
- 5-8 With one "Seven" swd R circle 1/2 CCW and then dance 2 "Threes" in place. W have now exchanged places. Finish with WL shoulder and MR shoulder twd audience.
- 9-16 Repeat exact action of meas 1-8 (Fig VI), W finishing in original places but M with back to audience (See Diagram 2).

VII. FWD AND BACK

- 1-2 All dance fwd, M moving away from audience and W moving twd audience.
- 3-4 All turn 1/2 CW in place.
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig VII), returning to place to finish with W facing audience and M with back to audience.

VIII. M FIG 8

- 1-8 W dance in place facing audience, as M dance Fig 8 around W going fwd and CCW around LW and then over to circle RW once CW to finish between W in original pos.

XI. LEAD OUT

- 1-16 Repeat action of Fig I, meas 1-16. Lift needle or continue dance to end of music.



Diagram 1

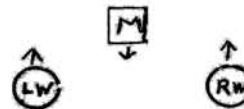


Diagram 2