

THE SILVER TASSIE

(Scotland)

The Silver Tassie (tassie means cup) is a new strathspey created by John Drewry in the mid-1960s, which features a new form of progression called the Rondel. It was presented at the 1967 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp by C. Stewart Smith.

MUSIC: Record: Parlophone PMC 1144 "Jimmy's Fancy", Side 1, Band 2, "Jimmy's Fancy".
Piano: "The Silver Tassie" by Lady Charlotte Campbell, collected in the 9th Set by Mary Isdale McNab.

FORMATION: Longways set for 4 cpls, M in one line with L shoulder twd music; W in opp line, facing ptr. Free hands at sides.

STEPS AND STYLING: Strathspey Step: Keeping ft close to floor, step fwd on ball of R (ct 1), closing step L behind R, L instep close to R heel (ct 2), keeping ft close to floor, step fwd R bending R knee slightly (ct 3), hop R bringing L fwd passing through close to R, toe pointing down and close to floor, knee turned out (ct 4). Begin next step L moving fwd.

Strathspey Setting Step: Step R sdwd R, knee and toe turned out (ct 1), closing step L behind R, L instep to R heel (ct 2), step R sdwd R again (ct 3), hop R bringing L up behind R ankle, L knee turned out and toe pointing down (ct 4). Begin next step sdwd L.

Use strathspey steps throughout except when setting in Fig I.
Ftwork is same for both M and W; all figures start R. When hands are joined, hold them at shoulder height.

MUSIC 4/4 **PATTERN**

Measures

Chord INTRODUCTION. M bow, W curtsy to ptr.

I. EXCHANGE PLACES AND SET

1-4 Cpls 1, 2 and 3 cross over to exchange places with ptr, giving R hands in passing. Join hands in lines of 3 and set with strathspey setting steps R and L.

5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4, returning to place.

II. FIGURE OF 8

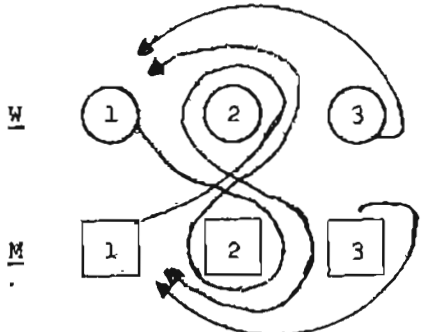
9-16 Cpl 1 dance a figure of 8 around cpl 2, who stand still. Cpl 1 dance down between cpl 2, crossing over (W passing in front of ptr) to begin. W 1 dance around M 2 passing R shoulders, back into the ctr and (passing in front of ptr) around W 2 passing L shoulders and back to place. M 1 dance around W 2 passing L shoulders, back into ctr and around M 2 passing R shoulders and back to place (See Diagram).

Simultaneously cpl 3 cast up (W turn CCW, M CW) to first place and follow cpl 1 in figure of 8. W 3 dance around M 2 and back to place (finishing by turning out or 1/4 CCW).

M 3 dance around W 2 and back to place (turning out or 1/4 CW).

Cpls 2 and 3 finish facing up the set.

NOTE: Take 4 meas to complete each half of the Figure of Eight.



III. DOWN THE CTR

17-20 Cpl 1 with inside hands joined dance down the ctr followed by cpls 2 and 3. Cpl 2 move up to first place during meas 17 and then turn twd ptr, join inside hands and follow cpl 1 down the ctr. Cpl 3 move up to first place during meas 17-18, turn twd ptr, join inside hands and follow cpls 1 and 2 down the ctr.

21-24 Cpl 1 release hands, turn halfway around twd ptr to face up, join new inside hands and lead up the ctr, while cpls 2 and 3 release hands to let cpl 1 through. Cpl 2 meet at the bottom, turn, join new inside hands and dance up between cpl 3, who then meet and dance up last. On the last meas cpl 1 release hands, turn halfway around twd ptr to face down and join new inside hands; cpl 2 stay together facing up with inside hands joined, and cpl 3 dance into place.

IV. THE RONDEL

Cpls 1 and 2 only dance the Rondel as follows:

THE SILVER TASSIE (continued)

25 Cpl 2 raise joined hands to form an arch, and cpl 1 dance under the arch as cpl 2 dance up.

26-27 Ptrs exchange places, W passing in front of M. Turn individually (W 1 and M 2 turn 3/4 CW, M 1 and W 2 turn 3/4 CCW) to finish facing ptr, W with W and M with M on wrong side with nearer hands joined.

28 M raise joined hands to form an arch. All cross to own sides, W going under the arch.

29-30 W exchange places, W 1 passing in front of W 2. M also exchange places, M 1 passing in front of M 2. Turn individually (W 1 and M 2 turn 3/4 CCW, W 2 and M 1 turn 3/4 CW) to meet ptr in original pos as in the beginning of this figure. Join inside hands, cpl 1 facing down and cpl 2 facing up.

31-32 Cpl 1 again pass under the arch made by cpl 2. All dance out to sides, having changed places.

Cpl 1 in second place repeat dance from beginning with cpls 3 and 4.

On last meas dance down to the bottom, as cpl 4 moves up. Cpl 2 then become active and dance twice, finishing at the bottom. Then cpl 3 and cpl 4 become active in turn.

Chord M bow, W curtsey to ptr.