

JASNA AGM 2012 Regency Ball Program

Dances will be selected from the following:

The Accomplished Maid
The Birth Night
The Comical Fellow
The Contending Parsons
The Coterie
Drapers Gardens
The Drummer
The Duke of Kent's Waltz
Knole Park
Money in Both Pockets
Mutual Love
My Love is But a Lassie Yet
The Pleasures of the Town
The Splendid Shilling
Take a Dance

Dancing Mistress: Beverly Francis

Music by Persuasion (Marnen Laibow-Koser, Tom Phillips and Cynthia Shaw)

The titles of country dances have been vivid and often puzzling from 1651 to the present day. You may notice that the dance titles for our evening resonate with the AGM themes, or they have some bearing on Jane Austen's family and interests. Jane Austen could have danced these dances, but in her day ballroom deportment was more formal than it is now, and footwork very elaborate. Never fear, the figures are straightforward and easy to learn, and the evening will be light-hearted fun for all.

Nearly all the dances are in duple longways formation: partners line up in long columns, dance in groups of four, and progress to dance with the next pair along the line. Two of the dances are three-couple sets, which will be danced in groups of six people.

Modern country dancers move with a light, jaunty walking step and use a comfortably firm hand grip. Dancers pay particular attention to a sense of timing with the music as well as the whole pattern of the dance. Footwork in Jane Austen's day was more elaborate.

Short descriptions of each dance and a glossary are below. Representative dances will be taught at the dance workshops, and each dance will be walked through at the evening ball. Let the felicities of rapid motion begin!

Dance Instructions:

A1, A2, B1 and B2 represent 8-bar sections of music. In most dances, dancers take 2 steps per bar; in a waltz, 3 steps. A number of dances have been adapted slightly for ease of teaching and learning. The instructions are intended as an aid and a reminder, but there is no better way to learn than to stand up and actually experience how much fun these dances can be. Original publications are listed along with modern publications, where one exists.

The Accomplished Maid

- A1 Partners set twice and change sides, passing R shoulder.
- A2 Repeat back to places.
- B1 1s lead down the center past 2 standing couples, long cast back up to place.
- B2 Circle L halfway. Partners 2-hand turn 1 1/2X.

(Unidentified collection, c1790)

(Modern publication: *The Fallibroome Collection*, Bernard Bentley)

The Birth Night

- A1 Partners set to each other, then set to the center of the foursome. RH star.
- A2 The same with a LH star.
- B1 1s cross over 1 couple as the 2s move up. 1s dance 1/2 figure 8 up through the 2s.
- B2 4 changes, rights and lefts.

(Skillern, 1776)

The Comical Fellow

- A1 1st corners set, moving forward. Fall back 4 steps to place, 2-hand turn 1X.
- A2 2nd corners the same
- B1 1s lead down the center. Lead back to place; quick cast to 2nd place as the 2s move up.
With 4 extra bars of music, clap 4 times, and partners 2H turn halfway.
- B2 Circle L and R.
With 4 extra bars of music, clap 4 times, and partners 2H turn halfway.

(Thompson, 1776)

(modern publication *The Apted Book*, W.S. Porter, Marjorie Heffer & Arthur B. Heffer)

The Contending Parsons

- A1 1s long cast to 2nd place as the 2s move up. 1s lead down through the next couple below and quick cast up to 2nd place.
- A2 2s long cast to 2nd place as the 1s move up. 2s lead down through the next couple below and quick cast up to 2nd place. All home.
- B1 1s cross over 1 couple as the 2s move up. 1s dance 1/2 figure 8 up through the 2s.
- B2 4 changes, rights and lefts.

(Bride, 1775)

The Cotery

- A1 1st corners set moving forward and fall back 4 steps to to places.
1st couple 2H turn 1X.
- A2 2nd corners set moving forward and fall back 4 steps to places.
1st couple 2H turn 1X.
- B1 1s lead down the center.
1s lead back to place; quick cast to 2nd place as the 2s move up.
- B2 4 changes, rights and lefts.

(Straight and Skillern, 1775)

(modern publication: *The Richmond Assemblies*, Kate Van Winkle Keller & George Fogg)

Drapers Gardens (a waltz)

- A1 1st corners set moving forward, turn single to the R. 2H turn 1X.
- A2 2nd corners the same.
- B1 Women face and 2h turn halfway. Then men the same.
Circle L halfway and fall back into lines, improper.
- B2 Partners pass R shoulder, neighbors pass L shoulder (all progressed).
1s lead up through 2s above and cast back to progressed place.

(Dance: *The Dancing Master*, 1706-1728; Tune "The Margravine's Waltz" Preston, 1799)

(modern publication: *The Playford Ball*, Kate Van Winkle Keller & Genevieve Shimer)

The Drummer

- A1 Circle L 1X. LH star 1X.
- A2 Circle R 1X. RH star 1X.
- B1 1s cross over 1 couple as the 2s move up. 1s dance 1/2 figure 8 up through the 2s.
- B2 4 changes, rights and lefts.

(Thompson, 1757)

(Modern publication: *Retreads*, Charles Bolton)

Duke of Kent's Waltz

- A1 RH star. LH star.
- A2 1s dance 2 slow chasse steps down the set & back. 1s long cast off, 2s move up.
- B1 Partners give RH, balance, change sides, turning the woman under.
Back by the L.
- B2 On the R diagonal: RH turn 1X. Partners LH turn 1X.

(Cahusac, 1801)

(modern publication: *The Playford Ball*, Kate Van Winkle Keller & Genevieve Shimer)

Knole Park

- A1 Circle L 1X. 1st corners change. 2nd corners change.
- A2 Circle L 1X. 1st corners change; 2nd corners change. All home.
- B1 1s lead down the center.
1s lead back to place; quick cast to 2nd place as the 2s move up.
- B2 Partners poussette

(Dance: Voigt, 1809; Tune: Bishop, 1809)
(modern publication: *The Playford Ball*, Kate Van Winkle Keller & Genevieve Shimer)

Money in Both Pockets

- A1 1s take inside hands and set twice to the 2nd woman.
1s and 2nd woman circle of three 1X.
- A2 1s take inside hands and set twice to the 2nd man.
1s and 2nd man circle of three 1X.
- B1 1s lead down the center.
1s lead back to place; quick cast to 2nd place as the 2s move up.
- B2 4 changes, rights and lefts.

(Cahusac, 1792)
(Modern publication: *24 Early American Country Dances, Cotillions & Reels for the Year 1976*, James Morrison)

Mutual Love

- A1 Men take inside hands and dance clockwise around the women and back to place.
Partners 2H turn 1X.
- A2 Women take inside hands and dance clockwise (2nd woman in the lead) around the men and back to place. Partners 2H turn 1X.
- B1 RH star. LH star.
- B2 R&L, 3 changes. Partners end close after the 3rd change, then fall back to place.

(Thompson, 1777)
(Modern publication: *The Apted Book*, W.S. Porter, Marjorie Heffer & Arthur B. Heffer)

My Love is But a Lassie Yet

- A1 Partners set to each other, then set to the center of the foursome. RH star.
- A2 The same with a LH star.
- B1 1s cross over 1 couple as the 2s move up. 1s dance 1/2 figure 8 up through the 2s.
- B2 Circle L. Circle R.

(Cahusac, 1800)

The Pleasures of the Town

3-couple set

- A1 Men take hands in line and dance clockwise around the three women.
- A2 Women take hands in line and dance counter-clockwise around the men.
- B1 Partners face up and take crossed hands. The 1s, followed by the others, cast off as a pair and promenade counterclockwise back to places.
- B2 1s and 2s dance 3 changes of rights and lefts. The 1s dance down to the bottom of the set as the 3s move up.

Order is now 2-3-1. Repeat twice more.

(Thompson, 1777)

(Modern publication *The Apted Book*, W.S. Porter, Marjorie Heffer & Arthur B. Heffer)

The Splendid Shilling

3-couple set

- A1 Women take hands in line and dance counter-clockwise around the men.
- A2 1st man leads the men around the women back to place.
- B1 1s lead down the center. Lead back to place; cast to 2nd place as the 2s move up.
- B2 Lines of 3 dance forward and back. 1s & 3s: 3 changes R&L.

Order is now 2-3-1. Repeat twice more.

(Unidentified collection, c1790)

(Modern publication: *The Fallibroome Collection*, Bernard Bentley)

Take a Dance

- A1 1s lead down through the 2s, quick cast back to place.
1s 2H turn 1X.
- A2 2s lead up through the 1s, quick cast back to place.
2s 2H turn 1X.
- B1 1s cross over 1 couple as the 2s move up. 1s dance 1/2 figure 8 up through the 2s.
- B2 4 changes, rights and lefts.

(Thompson, 1765)

(Modern publication: *Wrights Humours*, David and Katherine Wright)

Glossary of Figures

Balance: Step forward and back.

Cast off: Face up. Separate from partner and go down the outside one place. Usually the neighboring dancers move up into the vacated spot. A cast can be long (8 steps) or quick (4 steps).

Change: Exchange places by passing R shoulder. Partners can change across. Corners can change on the diagonal.

Circle: Join hands in a ring of three or four as specified, move to the left once around. Move back to the right if specified.

Corners: First corners are the 1st man and the 2nd woman. Second corners are the 1st woman and the second man.

Cross over one couple: active dancers cross the set passing R shoulders and move down the outside one place. They are progressed and improper.

Cross over two couples: Active dancers cross the set passing R shoulders and move down the outside one place. They cross again and move down the outside once place more.

Diagonals: The right diagonal for the women is the person standing in line just above her partner. The left diagonal is the person standing in line just below her partner. Conversely for the men, the right diagonal is the person standing just below his partner, and the left diagonal is the person standing just above his partner.

Down outside: 1st couple cast off and travel down the outside of the set. Come back home on the same path.

Half figure eight: The active dancers cross up the center between the couple above and then dance around the standing opposite dancer and down the outside, ending where their partner started.

Lead down the center: Active dancers face down the center taking inside hands. They dance down the center of the set, turn to face up changing hands, and dance back to their starting places and cast off

Longways set: two lines of dancers, who face across to their partners. At the start of each walk-through, modern dancers take hands in groups of four people to identify their working groups. With each round of the dance, the 1st couples progress one place down the set, and the 2nd couples progress one place up the set to move on and dance with a new couple. All our longways dances will be in groups of four, or duple minors. In Jane Austen's day, groups of six, or triple minors, were standard.

Poussette: Partners take 2 hands. 1st man takes 4 steps obliquely forward, pushing partner out of the set, then fall back 4 steps, pulling partner into the other couple's place. Simultaneously the 2nd woman takes four steps obliquely forward, pushing partner out from the set, then fall back 4 places into the 1st couples' place. Continue the movement until all are back where they started (whole poussette).

Proper, improper: When you are on your own side of the dance, you are proper. When you are on your partner's side, you are improper.

Right and left, 4 changes: Partners give R hands and change across the set, usually in 4 steps. Give L hand to neighbor and change, moving up or down the set. Partners give R hands and change. Neighbors give L hands and change. Dancers end the figure where they started. Sometimes just 2 or 3 changes are specified.

Right-hand star, left-hand star: diagonally opposite dancers join R in a shake-hands position. They dance around clockwise. Similarly, a counter-clockwise move for a LH star.

Set: Simple footwork that can be done in place or moving forward or back. One unit of setting is to the R *and* the L and takes 2 bars of music. Take a light step to the R, followed by a quick change of weight to the L and back to the R. Then take a light step to the L, followed by a quick change of weight to the R and back to the L. Dances from this time period often specify setting twice, using 4 bars of music.

Turn: Partners take 2 hands (2H) and turn clockwise the specified amount, which can be halfway, once around or once and a half around.

Turn single: a solo turn on the spot, usually clockwise.