

Exemplar 8

An Irish dance: Haymaker's Jig

fifth and sixth classes

This is a traditional long dance in jig time for five couples.

(Note: although the Haymaker's Jig is usually danced by mixed couples, it may also be danced by all-boys or all-girls teams.)

Formation: Partners face each other in two lines:

o o o o o girls
x x x x x boys
1 2 3 4 5

A. Advance and retire

The lines of dancers advance towards each other with *promenade step* and retire to place [4 bars].

Repeat [4 bars].

All dance *rising step* on right foot [2 bars], then on left foot [2 bars], and lines advance and retire once more [4 bars].

[16 bars]

B. Turn in centre

Boy no. 1 and girl of last couple meet in centre with *promenade step* and, taking right hands, turn once and dance back to their places [4 bars].

Boy of last couple and girl of first couple repeat the movement, returning to their places [4 bars].

This whole movement is now repeated by each of the same couples but this time they take left hands when turning [8 bars].

[16 bars]

C. Swing in centre

Boy of first couple and girl of last couple again meet in centre, but this time they take both hands crossed and swing around [6 bars] before returning to place [2 bars]. Boy of last couple and girl of first couple repeat this movement [8 bars].

[16 bars]

D. Link arms

First couple advance to meet, link right arms and turn once [2 bars]. Then they continue to dance on to second couple, the boy linking left arm with the second girl, and the girl linking left arm with the second boy returning to partner [2 bars].

The leading couple link right arms again, turn once [2 bars] and pass on to the third couple, whom they turn, and so on until they have danced with the last couple.

The first couple now take hands and swing down the centre to original places.

E. Arch

The boy and girl of the first couple now turn outwards and march along outside their own line, followed by their own line of dancers until they come to the end of the set, where they face each other and hold both hands uncrossed to form an arch. The other couples meet in turn and, taking inside hands, pass under the arch and back along the line of the dance till couple no. 2 occupy the place of couple no. 1 before releasing hands as below.

o o o o o girls

x x x x x boys

2 3 4 5 1

The original leading couple now fall into line in the place of the last couple, and all are now in line to start the dance again from their new positions.

The dance is repeated until each couple has had an opportunity to become the leading couple in the line.

Note

Promenade step is danced as the '1, 2, 3'

Rising step is danced as 'kick, hop back, hop back 2, 3, 4.'