

QUEEN VICTORIA

Traditional

Formation: Contra lines, 1, 3, 5, etc., couples active but not crossed over.

Music: Shaw 173

- Intro - - - - , Active couples turn partner right
 1-8 - - - - , Now by the left once and a half
 9-16 - - - - , Right to corners balance four in line
 17-24 - - - - , Balance again turn corners right
 25-32 - - Men turn alone, - - down in fours
 33-40 - - Actives wheel ends turn, - - fours come back
 41-48 - - Cast off, with them right and left thru
 49-56 - - - - , With the music right and left back*

*Caller indicates ON AT THE HEAD every second and alternate sequence through the dance.

As the dancers learn the figure, less prompting is necessary. For example:

- 57-64 - - - - , - - Actives right
 1-8 - - - - , - Left once and a half
 9-16 - - - - , - - Balance four
 17-24 - - - - , - - Turn corners right
 25-32 - - Men turn, - - - down
 33-40 - - Wheel and turn, - - - back
 48 - - Cast off, - - right and left thru
 49-56 - - - - , - - - Back

Note: This is truly a "classic" dance, perfectly timed, well matched to the music, traditional in style, beautiful to dance and to watch.

When Ralph Page first presented this dance in Canada it was instantly recognised as one which would be enjoyed by at least as many generations in the future as it had been in the past. Some explanation is useful:

ACTIVES TURN PARTNER RIGHT — Using the pigeon wing handholds throughout, the actives turn partner by right and back into own lines.

ACTIVES TURN PARTNER LEFT ONCE AND A HALF TO GIVE RIGHT TO CORNERS — Actives turn partners left once and a half, and without releasing partners left, join right hands with the ones below (corners) in a line of four (Ocean Wave). The men are facing up, the ladies facing down.

BALANCE FORWARD AND BACK TWICE — Either a forward and back balance or pas de basque balance steps may be used twice (eight counts).

TURN CORNERS RIGHT ONCE AROUND MEN TURN ALONE ALL FACE DOWN — Actives turn corners right exactly once around, drop hands with corners and men turn half (right face) so all four are facing down the set.

DOWN IN FOURS ACTIVES WHEEL ENDS TURN ALONE — Lines dance four steps down the set with actives in the center. Actives release corners and wheel turn as a couple in four steps as the ends (corners) turn alone in four steps, ending with all four facing up the set and with hands rejoined in lines of four.

ME BACK TO PLACE AND CAST OFF — Lines dance four steps up to place, actives release each other and cast off. Progression has been made, active have moved down one place in line, inactives up one place.