

THE SILVER TASSIE

(Scotland)

The Silver Tassie (tassie means cup) is a new strathspey created by John Drewry in the mid-1960's and is one of the most popular numbers among Scottish dancers today. It features a new form of progression called the Rondel.

MUSIC: Record: Parlophone PMC 1144 Jimmy's Fancy, Side 1, Band 2, "Jimmy's Fancy," 4/4 meter.
Piano: "The Silver Tassie" by Lady Charlotte Campbell collected in the 9th Set by Mary Isdale McNab.

FORMATION: Longways set for 4 cpls.

STEPS: Strathspey, Strathspey Setting Step.
Use strathspey step throughout unless otherwise specified. Both M and W start each figure R. When hands are joined, they are held at shoulder height. Free hands are at sides.

Chord Introduction. Bow or curtsey 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 step.
5-8 Repeat action of meas. 1-4 returning to places.

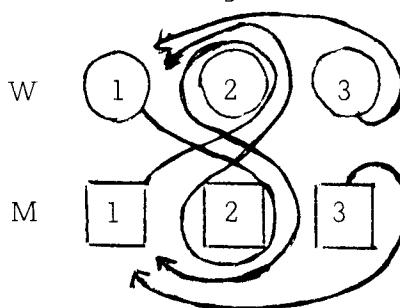
II. FIGURE OF 8

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 goes around M #2 passing R shoulders, back into the ctr and (passing in front of ptr) dances around W #2 passing L shoulders and back to place. M #1 goes around W #2 passing L shoulders, back into the ctr and around M #2 passing R shoulders and back to place. (See Diagram.)

THE SILVER TASSIE (Cont)

Simultaneously cpl #3 cast up (W turn CCW, M CW) to first place and follow cpl #1 in figure of 8. W #3 goes around M #2 and back to place. M #3 goes around W #2 and back to place.

Diagram:

III. DOWN THE CTR

17-20

Cpl #1 with inside hands joined dance down the ctr followed by cpls #2 and #3.

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 back to place.

IV. THE RONDEL

25

Cpls #1 and #2 only dance the Rondel as follows:
Cpl #2 raise joined hands to form an arch, and cpl #1 dance under the arch as cpl #2 dances up.

26=27

Ptrs exchange place, W passing in front of M. Turn individually (W. 3/4 CW, M 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 #3 3/4 CCW, W #2 and M #1 3/4 CW) to meet ptr in original pos as in beginning of this figure. Join inside hands with cpl #1 facing down and cpl #2 facing up.

THE SILVER TASSIE (Cont)

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

Cpl #1 in second place repeat dance from beginning with cpl #3 and #4. On last meas. dance down to the bottom. Cpl #2 then becomes active and dances twice, finishing at the bottom. Then cpl #3 and cpl #4 become active in turn.

Chord Bow or curtsey to ptr.

Notes by Larry and Ruth Miller.

Presented by C. Stewart Smith