

SOLAISAI NA BEALTAINNE

Solaisai na Bealtaine (So-law-shee' nuh Byowl'-thuh-nuh) ^{or Sweets of May,} means the pleasure or joys of May and should have a feeling of Spring. It comes from the North of Ireland and was presented by Sean and Una O'Farrell.

RECORD:

Rank Records of America, #RM310, Side 2, Band 2, "Come to the Ceili".

FORMATION: 4 cpls in square formation, cpl 1 with backs to music.

STEPS: A "Seven" in jig time (2 meas): When moving to the L, hop L (ct 6 of preceding meas), step R back of L (ct 1), step L to L (ct 3), step R behind L (ct 4), step L to L (ct 6), step R back of L (meas 2, ct 1), step L to L (meas 2, ct 3), step R behind L (meas 2, ct 4). The "seven" may also be done to the R reversing footwork and direction.

A "Three" in jig time: Hop L (ct 6 of preceding meas), step R (ct 1) step L (ct 3), step R (ct 4). Next step starts hopping R and stepping LRL. A "three" may be danced in place or moving in any direction.

A Sidestep consists of one "seven" and two "threes". If the sidestep is danced to the L, the first "three" starts hopping R and stepping in place L behind R, R in front of L, L behind R and the second "three" starts hopping L, etc.

All Irish dance steps are done up on the ball of the foot in a relaxed easy style.

MUSIC 6/8

PATTERN

Measures

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 8 | INTRODUCTION | All join hands at shoulder height. |
| I. | <u>SIDESTEP IN CIRCLE</u> | |
| A 1-4 | All circle L with sidestep to L. | |
| 5-8 | Circle back to place with sidestep to R. On last "three" take an extra step R (meas 8, ct 6) to adjust wt for next step. | |
| 1-4 | Continue to circle R with sidestep to R. | |
| (repeated)
5-8 | Circle back to place with sidestep to L. | |
| II. | <u>CHORUS</u> | |
| | a) <u>Promenade Across</u> | |
| B 9-10 | Ptrs join inside hands at shoulder height, outside hands free. Cpls 1 and 3 exchange places through the ctr of the set with two "threes", M passing L shoulder. Cpls 2 and 4 dance two "threes" in place. | |
| 11-12 | All dancing two "threes", cpls 2 and 4 exchange places while cpls 1 and 3 release hands, turn individually, M 1/2 CW, W 1/2 CCW, and join new inside hands at shoulder height. | |
| 13-14 | With two "threes" cpls 1 and 3 return to original places through the ctr of the set, W passing L shoulders, while cpls 2 and 4 turn individually. | |
| 15-16 | With two "threes" cpls 2 and 4 return, while cpls 1 and 3 turn individually, M 1/2 CCW, W 1/2 CW. | |
| | b) <u>Forward and Back</u> | |
| 9-10
(repeated) | With two "threes", cpls 1 and 3 move fwd twd each other, while cpls 2 and 4 repeat the action of cpls 1 and 3 in Fig IIa, meas 15-16. | |

Sweets of May (cont'd)

- 11-12 With two "threes" cpls 2 and 4 move fwd twd each other, while cpls 1 and 3 move bwd into place.
- 13-14 With two "threes" cpls 1 and 3 move fwd again, while cpls 2 and 4 move bwd.
- 15-16 Cpls 2 and 4 do two "threes" in place, while cpls 1 and 3 move bwd into place.
- c) Clap and Change
- C 17 All face ctr of set and clap thighs twice (ct 1, 4).
- 18 Clap own hands together twice (cts 1, 4).
- 19-20 Repeat action of Fig IIc, meas 17-18.
- 21-24 Exchange places with ptr with one sidestep, M to R and W to L, W passing in front.
- 17-24 Repeat action of Fig IIc, meas 17-24, returning to original places, M moving to L and W to R, M passing in front.
- (repeated)
- III. LEAD AROUND
- D25-32 Ptrs with inside hands joined at shoulder height face CCW around the set and lead around (promenade) with 8 "threes". Release hands and turn individually M 1/2 CW, W 1/2 CCW on last 2 meas.
- 25-32 Join new inside hands and promenade back to original places.
- (repeated)
- IV. CHORUS
- EECC 32 Repeat entire action of Fig II.
- meas total
- V. ARCHES
- A 1-2 Ptrs join inside hands. Cpls 1 and 2 face each other. Cpls 3 and 4 face each other. Cpls 1 and 3 raise joined inside hands forming an arch, and all move fwd with two "threes", cpls 2 and 4 going under the arches made by cpls 1 and 3.
- 3-4 All release hands and turn individually, M 1/2 CW, W 1/2 CCW, with two "threes". Join new inside hands.
- 5-6 Cpls 2 and 4 make the arches while cpls 1 and 3 go under and back to original places.
- 7-8 Ptrs join both hands and turn 1/2 CW with two "threes" finishing so that cpls 1 and 4 face each other and cpls 2 and 3 face each other, W on MR.
- 1-6 Repeat action of Fig V, meas 1-6 facing new cpl.
- (repeated)
- 7-8 All release hands and turn individually to face ctr of set, M 1/2 CCW, W 1/2 CW.
- VI. CHORUS
- BBCC 32 Repeat entire action of Fig II. All join hands in a circle on last 2 meas.
- meas total
- VII. THREAD THE NEEDLE
- D25-32 #1M and #4W release hands. Cpl 1 raise joined hands to form an arch. #4W dance under the arch leading the others behind her. She passes behind #1W and moves CCW back to original place in the circle with 8 "threes" in all. #1W turn once CCW under her L hand joined with ptr R to reform circle.
- 25-32 Repeat action of Fig VII, meas 25-32 with cpl 4 forming the arch while #1M leads the others through and around CW. #4M turn CW under his hand joined with ptr.
- (repeated)
- VIII. SIDESTEP IN CIRCLE
- E 33-40 All join hands in single circle and repeat entire action of Fig. I.
- 33-40
- (repeated)