

THE GARY STRATHSPEY

(Scotland)

This is a recent dance composed by James B. Cosh, of Glasgow, Scotland. It was introduced by C. Stewart Smith, at the 1963 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp, Stockton, California.

MUSIC: Record: Fontana TFE 17376 "The Gary Strathspey"

FORMATION: 4 cpls in longways formation*

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STEPS AND STRYLING: Strathspey Step*, Strathspey Setting Step*, Highland Schottische Step* Side Step (4/4 meter)*, Reel of Four*

The body is kept facing fwd and erect but not stiff. The chest is high; arms are held loosely at sides. (W may hold skirt.) All dancing is done on toes with knees well-turned out. Ptrs dance with each other, communicating by means of tension in the arms and by looking at one another. When inactive, stand in place with heels together and toes apart.

NOTE: Strathspey Steps always start R and are used throughout the dance unless otherwise stated. Action is smooth and continuous.

* Described in January 1970 issue of "LET'S DANCE MAGAZINE," under "Scottish Steps, Terms and Styling."

MUSIC 4/4

PATTERN

Measures

Chord INTRODUCTION: M bow, W curtsy.

I. RIGHTS AND LEFTS

Cpl 1 with cpl 2 and cpl 3 with cpl 4 dance right and left halfway around as follows:

1-2 Ptrs change places across the set, giving R hands in passing.

3-4 M with M, W with W change places moving up and down the dance giving L hands in passing. M 1 and M 3, W 2 and W 4 finish by turning CCW in twd L arm to face ctr of the dance.

5-8 Cpl 1 with cpl 4 (ctr cpls) dance R and L halfway around by changing places with ptr (R hand) and changing places up and down the dance (L hand) as before and finishing as shown in diagram #1.

II. CIRCLES AND LEAD UP

9-10 Cpl 2 with Cpl 4, cpl 1 with cpl 3 join hands in a circle of four dancers and circle 1/2 CW. Release hands and finish with cpl 4 in top pos, cpl 1 in bottom pos, M and W on wrong side.

11-12 Ctr cpls 2 and 3 turn individually CCW to join hands and circle 1/2 CCW.

13-16 Joining R hands, cpl 1 (W to ML) lead up the middle of the dance to the top (original place but on wrong side), turning away from ptr (M 1/2 CW, W 1/2 CCW), to finish facing down the dance. During meas 15-16 cpls 2, 3, 4 take 1 Side-Step, moving down 1 place. On last ct finish so that cpl 1 faces cpl 4 and cpl 3 faces cpl 2 up and down the dance, all on the wrong side. (See diagram II).

III. HIGHLAND SCHOTTISCHE AND GRAND CHAIN

17-20 All dance Highland Schottische Step R and L.

21-24 Dancers give R hands to person they are facing and dance a Grand Chain (Grand R & L)

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THE GARY STRATHSPEY (continued)

halfway around the set, passing one person for each Strathspey Step.

IV. REELS OF FOUR

25-32 After completing the Grand Chain halfway around, meet the next person to pass by R shoulders and continue dancing reels of four on own side of the dance. At end of reel, face ptr to repeat the dance from beginning with a new top cpl, (Cpl 2, Cpl 3, then Cpl 4) until all cpls are back in original places.

Chord M bow, W curtsy.

DIAGRAM I

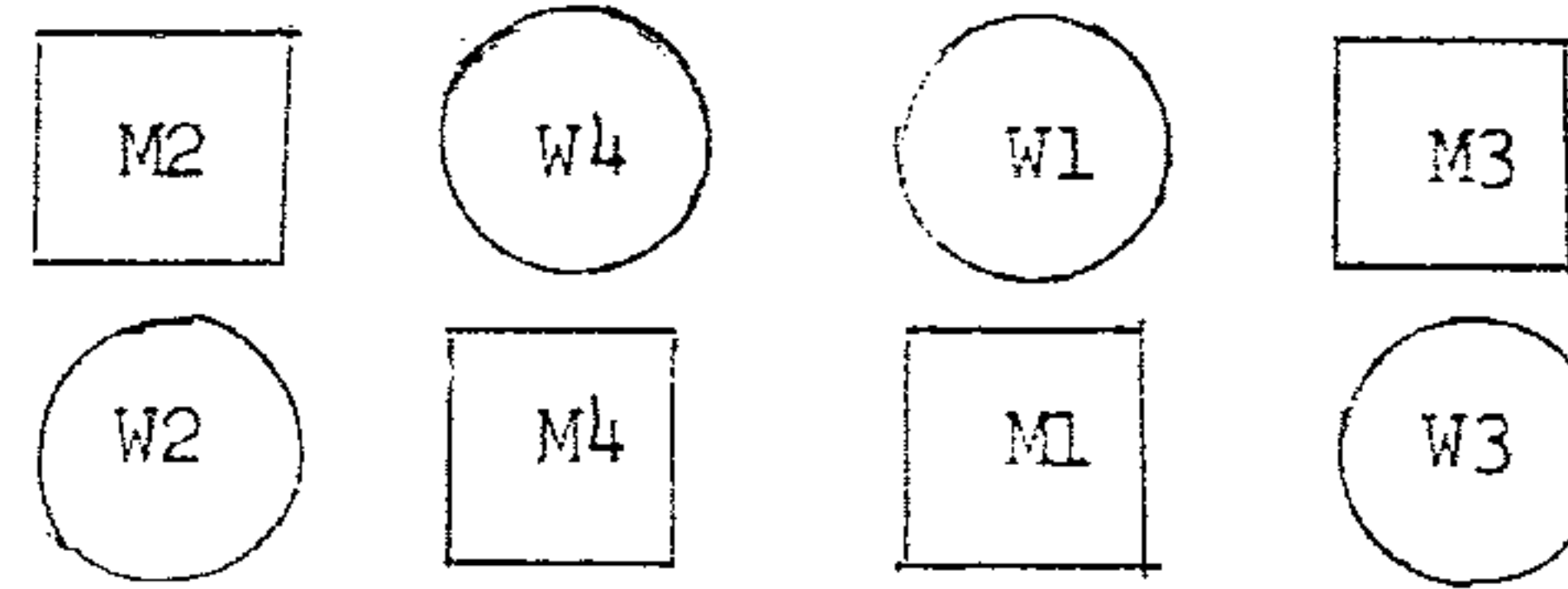


DIAGRAM II

