

THE ST. JOHN RIVER  
(Strathspey) Scottish

- SOURCE:** This dance was the winning dance in the competition to select a Scottish Country Dance to commemorate Canada's Centennial in 1967. Composed by Prudence Edwards, Fredericton, NB.
- MUSIC:** The Bonnie Lass o' Bbn Accord (Scott Skinner)  
The Singing Bird

PATTERN

Bars

- 1-8 W 1 casts off one place, crosses and casts behind 3 M, crosses and casts behind 4 W and crosses to finish below 4 M on opp side of the dance; 1 M follows his ptr to finish below 4 W on opp side of the dance.
- 9-16 1st Cpl, nearer hands joined, dance up under arch formed by 4th cpl, turn each other one and a half times with two hands, then dance up under arch formed by 2nd cpl, finishing in 1st place on own side of the dance.
- 17-24 1st couple lead down the middle and up, followed by 2nd, 3rd, and 4th couples. 2nd couple dances up for 2 bars, lead down for 2 bars up for 2 bars and dance down to place for 2 bars. 3rd cpl dance up for 3 bars, lead down for 1 bar and dance down to place for 3 bars; 4th cpl dance up for four bars to meet top of the dance but do not join hands, then cast out and dance down to place for 4 bars.
- 25-28 All four cpls dance back to back (dos-a-dos)
- 29-32 1st couple wend their way down own sides of the dance (Grand R & L), changing place with 2nd cpl with R hands, 3rd cpl with L hands and 4th cpl with R to finish in 4th place. 1st M and 4th W making polite turns.
- Explanation of the figures:
- 1-8 The Chase - desc the meandering course of the river.
- 9-16 The Bridges & Pools - is explained by its title.
- 17-24 The Reversing Falls - desc the reversing falls at St John; when the tide is ebbing, the River runs downstream over a shallow waterfall, and when the tide comes, in, it forces the River to flow upstream up the falls.
- 25-32 The River Meets the Sea - desc in the wave-like back-to-back movement of all four cpls, and 1st couple wending their way down to the 4th place desc the River disappearing into the sea.