

1962 Santa Barbara Folk Dance Conference

Presented by C. Stewart Smith

THE SHEPHERD'S CROOK
(SCOTLAND)

The Shepherd's Crook was introduced to California folk dancers by Bruce McClure, from Glasgow, Scotland, at College of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp, 1959.

MUSIC: Capitol T 10014 My Scotland, Side 2, Band 4*
FONTANA no.10
Beltona 2624*

Any good Strathspey*

FORMATION: Sets of 3, 1 M between 2 W, facing head of hall. Sets should line up directly behind, or alongside, one another to present symmetrical pattern on the floor.

STEPS: Strathspey Travelling Step: (1 meas 4/4 meter) Step fwd on R, keeping ft close to floor (ct 1); bring L ft up to and behind R, L instep close to R heel (ct 2); step fwd on R, keeping ft close to floor (ct 3); hop on R, bringing L ft through close to floor, knee turned out and ankle extended (ct 4). Begin next step with L, moving fwd.

Strathspey Setting Step: (1 meas 4/4 meter) Like Travelling Step, but done to side. Step to R on R, knee and toe turned out (ct 1); close L to R, L instep close to R Heel (ct 2); step to R on R (ct 3); hop on R, bringing L ft up behind R calf, L knee turned out and ankle extended (ct 4). Also done beginning L.

Shake and Rock Step: Hop on L pointing R to 2nd pos (ct 1), Hop on L taking weight R ft behind L calf (ct 2), Hop on L placing R toe to L toe (Ct 3), Hop on L extending R ft diag to R in the air (ct 4). Rock fwd on ball of R ft (meas 2, ct 1); rock back on ball of L (ct 2); repeat rock onto R and L (cts 3,4). In order to repeat step with L toe touching it is necessary to take small leap onto R while extending L toe to side on ct 1.

TOE, HEEL, AND ROCK STEP: (2 meas 4/4 meter) Throughout step knees and ft well turned out. With small hop on L touch R toe to R side (ct 1); repeat hop on L and touch R heel in same spot as toe touched (ct 2); repeat small hop on L, touch R toe next to L instep (ct 3); repeat small hop on L, touch R heel next to L instep (ct 4). Rock fwd on ball of R ft (meas 2, ct 1); rock back on ball of L (ct 2); repeat rock onto R and L (cts 3,4). In order to repeat step with L toe touching it is necessary to take small leap onto R while extending L toe to side on ct 1.

Continued...

The Shepherd's Crook (cont'd)

Highland Fling Step: (1 meas $4/4$ meter) Throughout step knees and ft are well turned out. Hop on L, touch R toe to side (ct 1); hop on L, touch R behind L calf (ct 2); hop on L, bring R in front of L, just under L kneecap heel close to knee (ct 3); hop on L, touch R behind L calf (ct 4). Movements of cts 2,3,4 are called "Shedding around the Leg".

STYLE: In Scottish dancing posture is erect, chest held high. M lead W and help them at all times - i.e. put them in their proper pos, not just let go, leaving the W to find her proper pos. Ptrs. dance with each other, communicating by means of tension in arms, and by looking at one another. In this dance M free hands are held at sides. W free hands hold skirt at either side between thumb and first two fingers, elbows rounded, skirt held out very slightly.

MUSIC $4/4$

Pattern

Measures

Chord 1

M bow from waist, hands held at sides.

W curtsy by taking small step fwd on R, placing L instep close to R heel, and bending both knees slightly, keeping back straight. Hold skirt as described above. Each dancer turns to R (CW) to face bottom of hall.

Chord 2

Join hands in a line of 3, elbows bent.

I. PROMENADE

1-4

Begin R, dance 4 Strathspey Travelling Steps twd bottom of hall, at end of meas 4 drop hands, each turn R (CW) to face head of hall, rejoin hands.

5-8

Repeat action of meas 1-4, dancing twd head of hall. Omit turn.

II. SHAKE AND ROCK STEP

1-8

Begin R, dance 4 Strathspey Rocking Steps.

III. SHEPHERD'S CROOK

1-4

M and 2nd W (on L of M) dance in place facing head of hall while 1st W (on R of M), guided by M, dances 4 Strathspey Travelling Steps CCW around M through arch formed by M and 2nd W. On meas 3 M turn L in place under L arm as he follows 1st W with Strathspey Travelling Step. On meas 4 2nd W turn R under her R arm with Strathspey Travelling Step.

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The Shepherd's Crook (cont'd)

1st W make as large a "Crook" (circle around M) as possible.

- 5-8 Repeat action of Fig III, meas 1-4 with 2nd W making "Crook". On meas 7 M turn R under his R arm. On meas 8, 1st W turn L under her L arm.

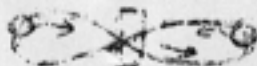
IV. SCHOTTISCHE

Step described for M, W do counterpart. Inactive W face head of hall.

- 1 M take last W in closed pos Hop on R, point L toe to side, knee extended (ct 1); hop on R, bend L knee and touch L ft behind R calf, toe pointed down (ct 2); hop on R, extend L toe to side (ct 3); hop on R, bring L in front of R shin, toe pointed down (ct 4).
- 2 Dance one Strathspey Setting Step as described, travelling to M L.
- 3-4 Repeat action of Fig IV, meas 1-2, to M R. "Lilt in so M has R ft free"
- 5-8 M and 1st W join R hands in a rounded circle and dance 4 Travelling Steps CW. M end in original pos between the 2 W. M begin L, W R.
- 9-16 Repeat action of Fig IV, meas 1-8, M dance with 2nd W twd bottom of hall.

V. REEL OF THREE (Figure Eight)

- 1-8 M and 1st W face each other. 2nd W face twd M. Begin R, all dance 8 Travelling Steps in a figure eight weave and return to original pos. M and 1st W pass L shoulders. 2nd W dance 1 meas in place before moving into pattern. See diagram:



Que: Always cut between other 2 dancers.

VI. TOE, HEEL, AND /OCK STEP AND CIRCLE

- 1-8 Join hands as in Fig 1, dance 4 Highland Fling Side Steps, Begin R.
- 9-16 W join hands to form a circle with M. All dance 4 Strathspey Travelling Steps CW. Begin R. (This necessitates a quick shift of wt). Dance 4 Travelling Steps CCW to finish in original pos in a line of 3.

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VII. HIGHLAND FLING STEP

- 1-3 Hop on L, dance 3 Highland Fling Steps. Drop hands.
- 4 W: Turn R (CW) with 4 small walking steps, R L R L finishing in 1st pos with weight evenly divided.
- M: With small spring onto R, point L toe to side (ct 1); hopping 3 times on R turn once to the R (CW) while doing "Round the Leg" with L (cts 2,3,4).
- 5-6 Join hands in line of 3. Hop on R, point L toe to side, dance 2 Highland Fling Steps. Drop hands.
- 7-8 W: Turn L (CCW) once with 4 slow walking steps (2 per meas).
- M: Repeat action of Fig VII, meas 4 twice, but turn L, hopping on L and do "Round the Leg" with R. Make one complete turn on each meas.
- Finish dance with curtsy for W and bow for M as at beginning.
- *Pick up needle at end of dance as most recorded Strathspeys are too long.