

SHIP O' GRACE

SCOTLAND

Note: For easy reading, open staples,
remove description, close staples.

This dance is a modern strathspey, only about 10 years old, telling the story of the rescue of a ship in distress. It was taught by C. Stewart Smith at the 1962 Folk Dance Camp at the University of the Pacific, Stockton, California.

MUSIC: Record: "The Ship of Grace", Fontana #15, Side 2, Band 2.

FORMATION: 4 cpls in longways formation. Line of M facing a line of W with ptrs facing, ML shoulder twd music or head of line. Cpls are numbered from 1 to 4 with cpl #1 at head of line.

STEPS AND
STYLING: Strathspey Step: Step fwd on ball of R ft, keeping ft close to floor (ct 1); bring L ft up to and behind R, L instep close to R heel (ct 2); keeping ft close to floor, step fwd on R, bending R knee slightly (ct 3); hop on R bringing L ft through close to floor, knee turned out and toe pointed down (ct 4). The motion of the strathspey is down and up in feeling rather than level. Begin next step L moving fwd. Always start R unless otherwise stated.

Strathspey Setting Step: Similar to Strathspey Step but done to side. Step R to R, knee and toe turned out (ct 1); close L behind R, L instep close to R heel (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); hop on R bringing L ft up behind R ankle, L knee turned out and toe pointed down (ct 4). Begin next step swd L.

Styling: The body is kept facing fwd and erect but not stiff. The chest is held high, and arms are held loosely at sides with thumbs fwd. (W may hold skirt in front with thumb and first two fingers). All dancing is done on toes with knees well-turned out. Ptrs dance with each other, communicating by means of tension in arms and by looking at one another. When inactive, stand

in place with heels together and toes apart (first pos.). Strathspey Steps are used throughout the dance unless otherwise stated.

MUSIC 4/4

PATTERN

Measures

Chord Introduction: M bow from waist, hands held at sides. W curtsy by taking small step R to R, placing L instep close to R heel and bending knees slightly, keeping back straight.

I. DOWN THE MIDDLE AND CAST UP (The lifeboat is launched)

A 1-8 Cpl #1 with R hands joined at chest level lead down the middle of the dance and cast off — M turning 1/2 CW and going around M #4 and up the outside behind the M line, while W turns 1/2 CCW and goes around W #4 and up the outside behind W line. Finish in original places.

II. GRAND CHAIN (Rescue equipment).

B 9-16 Cpls #1 and #4 face ptrs. M #2 faces M #3, while W #2 faces W #3 (Fig 1). All 4 cpls dance a Grand Right and Left with the arms well-extended, passing one person for each meas of music. Finish in original places facing ptrs.

III. SET AND HANDS ACROSS (The wheel)

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(continued)

- A 1-2 (repeated) All M join hands shoulder high on the side in a line. All W join hands in a line. Dance Strathspey Setting Step R and L.
- 3-4 (repeated) Cpl #1 dancing with cpl #2 and cpl #3 with cpl #4 (Fig 2), give R hands across (W #1 hand joined with M #2 on top and W #2 with M #1 underneath; W #3 with M #4 on top with W #4 with M #3 underneath). Dance half way around to finish on opp side.
- 5-6 (repeated) All W again join hands in a line on M side, while M join hands in a line on W side. Dance Strathspey Setting Step R and L.

7-8 (repeated) Repeat action of Fig III, meas 3-4, giving L hands across and returning to original places.

IV. ARCH (Over the waves to the boat in distress)

- B 9-10 Cpl #1 faces down the dance and makes an arch by joining nearest hands with ptr. Cpl #1 moves slowly down the dance with 2 Strathspey Steps. At the same time cpl #2 dances into the middle, joins R hands with ptr at chest level, and dances under the arch formed by cpl #1, finishing in cpl #1 original pos.
- 11-14 (repeated) Cpl #1 continues down the dance while cpl #3 and then cpl #4 repeat the action of Fig IV, meas 9-10. Cpl #3 finishes in cpl #2 original pos and cpl #4 in cpl #3 original pos.
- 15-16 Cpl #1 and cpl #4 turn ptrs with L hand once around. (The knot between the 2 boats is tied.)

V. UP THE MIDDLE AND CAST DOWN (Back to safety towing the rescued boat)

- B 9-16 (repeated) Cpl #1 leads up the middle with L hands still joined as cpl #4 casts off below cpl #1 (M turning CCW, W CW) to join R hands and follow cpl #1 up the dance. At the top cpl #1 casts off with cpl #4 following (M turning CCW, W CW) down the outside of the dance to the bottom where cpl #1 finishes in 4th place and cpl #4 in 3rd place.

The entire dance is repeated 3 more times until all cpls finish in original places.

Chord M bow, W curtsy as in Introduction.

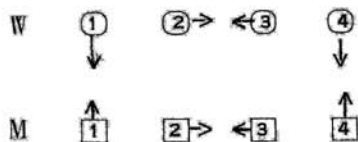


FIG. II.

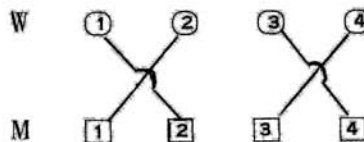


FIG. III.