

Research Committee:

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SIAMSA BEIRTE (Sheem-suh Berta)

(Irish)

An Irish couple dance in Hornpipe time. This dance was introduced at the College of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp, 1954, by Sean and Una O'Farrell.

- MUSIC:** Record: Parlophone MIP 306, "Bluebell Polka", or any good hornpipe.
- FORMATION:** Partners face with R hands joined at shoulder height, elbows bent and down, M with back to center of circle. Free hand hangs at side.
- STEPS:** Threes, rock, promenade. A complete description with meas. and ct. is given in LET's DANCE, October 1951, and in Folk Dances From Near and Far, Vol. VII. The steps are described for the M, the W does the counterpart.
Note: The step pattern for Siamsa Beirte begins on the 4th ct. and each meas. description includes the 4th ct. of the preceding meas.

MUSIC: Slow 4/4 Hornpipe

STEP PATTERN

Measures

Introduction: With this record there is no music for introduction.

I.—THREES, ROCK

- (a) Moving to M's L, M *hop* on R in place (ct. 4).
1 Step to L on L (ct. 1), step on R behind L (ct. 2), step to L on L (ct. 3).
2 Repeat meas. 1, Fig. I, using opposite feet and moving in opposite direction.
(b) *Note:* This step is done in one place and is very quick and subtle. *Do not move away from partner.* One ft. replaces the other on the hop. On the rock the wt. is transferred from the ball of one ft. to the ball of the other ft.
- 3-4 Hop on R ft. in place (ct. 4), bring L behind R, then step on L (ct. 1), now hop on L (ct. 4), bring R behind L and step on L (ct. 3); hop on R (ct. 4), bring L behind R and *rock* L, R, L (ct. 1, 2, 3).
- 5-8 Repeat action of Fig. I (a), (b), meas. 1-2, 3-4. Beginning M's L, W's R, and moving in reverse LOD.

II.—CHANGE PLACES, PROMENADE

- 9-10 (a) Repeat action of Fig. I (a), meas. 1. Then M and W change places using 1 three: hop, step, step, step. M makes half turn CW, W moves CCW into M's place, turning under R hands which are still joined. W also does 1 three step.
- 11-12 Repeat action of Fig. II, meas. 9-10, moving against LOD and changing places so M is again on the inside of the circle.
- 13-16 (b) Both hands joined with partner—R joined over, L joined under. Do a continuous turn CW, moving CCW with 4 Promenade steps: hop, step, step, step.
Note: On the Promenade (swing), partners are close, elbows bent, forearms upright. *Variation on hand hold for promenade (swing):* M rolls joined R hand toward him and under their joined L hands to finish with R hands near W, L hands near M, W arms resting on M arms with elbows held out horizontally.