

THE FAIRY REEL
An Irish Six Hand Reel

Una

Source: Eliz. Burchenal, National Dances of Ireland.
Mrs. M. MacInnes, Teachers of Scottish and Irish dances.

Music: Burchenal, National Dances of Ireland.
Recording: Rex 15008, The Fairy Reel.

Formation: Line of three dancers facing another line of three dancers. M in center of each line with W at ends, or partners across the lines - M in center at one side, W in center at other side.

Steps: all steps should be small and controlled, covering very little space, knees slightly bent to give springiness, body erect hands hanging at sides
PROMENADE STEP - step fwd R (1), close L behind R stepping on toe (and),
step fwd R lift L off floor (2).

Requires 1 meas; repeat starting L.

when advancing and retiring with the Promenade it is done thus:

meas. 1 - step fwd R, step fwd L

2 - promenade step as written above,

3 - step bwd L, step bwd R

4 - promenade step as for meas 2 but starting L and moving bwd

SEVEN - toes turn outward throughout step

1 - with little jump land on toes wgt on L in bk of R, R heel over L toe
(1)

2 - short step to R on R toe (and)

3 - step L to R into same position as for ct. 1 (2)

4 - R to R (and)

5 - L to R (1)

6 - R to R (and)

7 - L to R (2) finish wgt on L, lift R slightly off floor.

This requires 2 meas is counted as noted in margin.

TWO THREES - Toes turned outward throughout step.

1 - step on R toe behind L heel and lift L slightly off floor (1)

2 - step on L toe in place with L heel over R toe (and)

3 - step on R toe in place and lift L ft slightly off floor (2)

This requires 1 meas is counted as noted in margin.

Repeat another three as above but start "step on L toe".

This required 1 meas and completes the Two Threes.

SIDE STEP - is composed of a Seven and Two threes usually done thus:

Dance a Seven moving swd to the R, dance Two Threes in place

Dance a Seven moving swd to the L, dance Two Threes in place.

The above steps can be done starting either R or L as required by the dance pattern.

Pattern

Hands joined in lines of three, elbows bent, hands at shoulder level.

Pickup introduction in music

8 meas Step 1: Two lines advance and retire with the Promenade step (start R)
Advance and retire again, but in last meas center moves farther back than
ends to finish with all six practically in a circle.

8 meas Step 2: All six join hands and dance a Seven to the R.
Release hands and dance Two Threes in place. All face R dance CC" in
single file with 4 promenade steps

8 meas All face center join hands and repeat above 8 meas starting to the L
Finish with lines of three facing as in original position.

The Fairy Reel (con't)

- 8 meas Step 3: Each line of three join hands in a small circle and dance a Seven to the R and Two Threes in place, and a Seven to the L and Two Threes in place. Do not release hands until the last count to finish in original position of two lines of three facing.
- 8 meas. Step 4: Center and R end face, L end faces same as Center, all move in a figure 8. Center and R end change places passing R shoulders, R end and L end change places passing L shoulders, L end and Center change places passing R shoulders, Center and R end change places passing L shoulders, R end and L end change places passing R shoulders, L end and Center change places passing L shoulders. This is done with 8 promenade steps. All finish in original positions:
- 8 meas. Step 5: Center and R end face and join R hand, L end faces opp. line. Center and R end dance a Seven to Center's L and Two Threes in place; return to place with a Seven to Center's R and Two Threes in place. Simultaneously the L end dances a Seven to his R and Two Threes in place; return to original with a Seven to his L and Two threes in place.
- 8 meas Center and L end now face and join R hand, R end faces opp. line. Repeat above 8 meas moving to Center's R and back to place, while R end moves to own L and back to place.
(during this step dancers are changing places like counters in a game, and should require no more floor space than the set occupies)
- 4 meas Step 6: Center facing L end. Center hook R elbows with L end and turn once around with 2 promenade steps. Center hook L elbows with R end and turn once around with 2 promenade steps.
- 4 meas Repeat all, ends staying in place and Center traveling to turn with each.
- 2 meas Step 7: All facing opp. line. Centers dance Two Threes in place starting R. Simultaneously the ends of each line dance a Seven changing places
(R end moves to L and L end moves to R still facing opp. line
R end passes in back and L end in front of Center)
- 2 meas Centers now face R dance a Seven to own L passing face to face into each others places. Simultaneously the ends dance Two Threes in place
- 2 meas Simultaneously the ends dance a Seven back to place (R end moves to R in front, and L end moves to L in back of Center)
- 2 meas Centers face L dance a Seven to own R passing face to face to original position. Simultaneously the ends dance Two Threes in place.
- In using the Rex recording now repeat steps 1,2,3,4,5,6,7
- 8 meas Step 8: Finish-all six join hands in a singel circle. Advance and retire with the Promenado steps and repeat (start R)
- 4 meas Keeping hands joined move to the R with a Seven, and Two Threes in place.
- 4 meas Repeat Seven and Two Threes moving to the L
- 8 meas Advance and retire with the Promenade steps and repeat (start L)
(Here the hex recrd ends - the dance however should repeat the Seven and Two Threes to the L and R)