

SOLAISAINA BEALTAINÉ

FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA RESEARCH COMMITTEE:
Larry Miller, Ruth Ruling, Dorothy Tamburini

SWEETS OF MAY

(Irish)

Sweets of May or Solaisain na Bealtaine (So-law-shee' nuh Byowl'-thuh-nuh) means the pleasure or joys of May and shou'd have a feeling of Spring. It comes from the North of Ireland and was presented at the 1961 Folk Dance Camp at the University of the Pacific, Stockton, California, by Sean and Una O'Farrell.

MUSIC: Record: Rank Records of America, #RM310, Side 2, Band 2, "Come to the Ceili".

FORMATION: 4 cpls in square formation, cpl 1 with backs to music.

STEPS: A "Seven" in jig time (2 meas): When moving to the L, hop L (ct 6 of preceding meas), step R back of L (ct 1), step L to L (ct 3), step R behind L (ct 4), step L to L (ct 6), step R back of L (meas 2, ct 1), step L to L (meas 2, ct 3), step R behind L (meas 2, ct 4). The "seven" may also be done to the R reversing footwork and direction.

A "Three" in jig time: Hop L (ct 6 of preceding meas), step R (ct 1) step L (ct 3), step R (ct 4). Next step starts hopping R and stepping LRL. A "three" may be danced in place or moving in any direction.

A Sidestep consists of one "seven" and two "threes". If the sidestep is danced to the L, the first "three" starts hopping R and stepping in place L behind R, R in front of L, L behind R and the second "three" starts hopping L, etc.

All Irish dance steps are done up on the ball of the foot in a relaxed easy style.

MUSIC 6/8

PATTERN

Measures

- 8 INTRODUCTION All join hands at shoulder height.
- I. SIDESTEP IN CIRCLE
- 1-4 All circle L with sidestep to L.
- 5-8 Circle back to place with sidestep to R. On last "three" take an extra step R (meas 8, ct 6) to adjust wt for next step.
- 1-4 (repeated) Continue to circle R with sidestep to R.
- 5-8 Circle back to place with sidestep to L.
- II. CHORUS
- a) Promenade Across
- 9-10 Cpls join inside hands at shoulder height, outside hands free. Cpls 1 and 3 exchange places through the ctr of the set with two "threes", 1 passing L shoulder. Cpls 2 and 4 dance two "threes" in place.
- 11-12 All dancing two "threes", cpls 2 and 4 exchange places while cpls 1 and 3 release hands, turn individually, M 1/2 CW, W 1/2 CCW, and join new inside hands at shoulder height.
- 13-14 With two "threes" cpls 1 and 3 return to original places through the ctr of the set, W passing L shoulders, while cpls 2 and 4 turn individually.
- 15-16 With two "threes" cpls 2 and 4 return, while cpls 1 and 3 turn individually, M 1/2 CCW, W 1/2 CW.
- b) Forward and Back
- 9-10 (repeated) With two "threes", cpls 1 and 3 move fwd twd each other, while cpls 2 and 4 repeat the action of cpls 1 and 3 in Fig IIa, meas 15-16.

SWENTS OF MAY (concluded)

- 11-12 With two "threes" cpls 2 and 4 move fwd twd each other, while cpls 1 and 3 move bwd into place.
13-14 With two "threes" cpls 1 and 3 move fwd again, while cpls 2 and 4 move bwd.
15-16 Cpls 2 and 4 do two "threes" in place, while cpls 1 and 3 move bwd into place.

c) Clap and Change

- C 17 All face ctr of set and clap thighs twice (ct 1, 4).
18 Clap own hands together twice (cts 1, 4).
19-20 Repeat action of Fig IIc, meas 17-18.
21-24 Exchange places with ptr with one sidestep, M to R and W to L, W passing in front.
17-24 (repeated) Repeat action of Fig IIc, meas 17-24, returning to original places, M moving to L and W to R, M passing in front.

III. LEAD AROUND

- D25-32 Ptrs with inside hands joined at shoulder height face CCW around the set and lead around (promenade) with 8 "threes". Release hands and turn individually M 1/2 CW, W 1/2 CCW on last 2 meas.
25-32 (repeated) Join new inside hands and promenade back to original places.

IV. CHORUS

- BEOC 32 Repeat entire action of Fig II.
meas total

V. ARCHES

- A 1-2 Ptrs join inside hands. Cpls 1 and 2 face each other. Cpls 3 and 4 face each other. Cpls 1 and 3 raise joined inside hands forming an arch, and all move fwd with two "threes", cpls 2 and 4 going under the arches made by cpls 1 and 3.
3-4 All release hands and turn individually, M 1/2 CW, W 1/2 CCW, with two "threes". Join new inside hands.
5-6 Cpls 2 and 4 make the arches while cpls 1 and 3 go under and back to original places.
7-8 Ptrs join both hands and turn 1/2 CW with two "threes" finishing so that cpls 1 and 4 face each other and cpls 2 and 3 face each other, W on MR.
1-6 (repeated) Repeat action of Fig V, meas 1-6 facing new cpl.
7-8 All release hands and turn individually to face ctr of set, M 1/2 CCW, W 1/2 CW.

VI. CHORUS

- WBOC 32 Repeat entire action of Fig II. All join hands in a circle on last 2 meas.
meas total

VII. THREAD THE NEEDLE

- 1-25-32 #1M and #4W release hands. Cpl 1 raise joined hands to form an arch. #4W dance under the arch leading the others behind her. She passes behind #1W and moves CCW back to original place in the circle with 8 "threes" in all. #1W turn once CCW under her L hand joined with ptr K to reform circle.
25-32 (repeated) Repeat action of Fig VII, meas 25-32 with cpl 4 forming the arch while #1M leads the others through and around CW. #4M turn CW under his hand joined with ptr.

VIII. SIDESTEP IN CIRCLE

- 31-40 All join hands in single circle and repeat entire action of Fig. 1.
33-40 (repeated)