

SOLDIER'S JOY (America)

One of the "classics" of square dancing, this tune may be used for contra dances, squares, a Virginia Reel, or even a Grand March. The version described here is the popular *Sicilian Circle*.

OPENING FORMATION: Double circle of couples facing, alternately, clockwise and counterclockwise. Ladies on partners' right. Two facing couples comprise a set.

CALLS: "Circle left, 4 hands around"—(joining hands, each set walks left 8 steps).

"The other way back"—(walk right 8 steps).

"Swing your opposite"—(8 steps).

"Swing your own"—(swing partner for 8 steps).

"Forward and back"—(4 steps forward and 4 back).

"Forward again and pass on through"—(4 steps forward and 4 more on to the next set, passing opposite partner by the right shoulder).

CALLS: "Circle left, then circle right"—(8 steps each way).

"Do-si-do your opposite."

"Do-si-do your own."

"Forward and back."

"Forward again and pass on through."

CALLS: "Circle right, then circle left."

"A right-hand star"—(walking 8 steps).

"And a left-hand star"—(8 steps).

"Do-si-do your opposite."

"Do-si-do your own."

"Forward again and pass on through."

CALLS: "Circle right, then circle left."

"Ladies chain."

"Ladies chain back."

"Forward again and pass on through."

CALLS: "Circle left, then circle right."

"Right and left through."

"Right and left back."

"Forward again and pass on through."

CALLS: "Circle right, then circle left."

"The two gents swing."

"The two ladies swing."

"Do-si-do your opposite."

"Do-si-do your own."

"Forward again and pass on through."

NOTE: These calls need not be given in any particular sequence. For instance, couples can be directed to pass on through *two* sets or may do any desired combination of figures. Part of the fun is to vary calls so that dancers will not be able to anticipate the steps.



Familiarity with square dance calls and figures is recommended before a group attempts a specific dance. The following explanations apply to both *Blackberry Quadrille* and *Soldier's Joy*.

Do-Si-Do: "Gent" and "lady" advance, pass each other by the right shoulder, slide back-to-back, and return to place, passing left shoulders. (Done with 8 steps.)

Ladies Chain: The two ladies of the set advance to center, pass each other with a right-hand hold and turn toward opposite gents. The opposite gent meets the lady with a left-hand hold, places his right arm around her waist, and turns her to the left, in place, to face center. To "Chain Back," ladies, without pausing, repeat the identical figure across the center and back to places. (Done with 16 steps: 4 across, 4 to turn, and back to places.)

Opposite: The gent or lady across the set, *not* one's partner.

Right and Left Through: Opposite couples advance and pass each other, gents on

the outside. Each gent separates from his partner so that the opposite lady passes between them. Thus gents pass ladies by the right shoulder, ladies pass each other by the left shoulder.

As soon as couples pass, gent takes partner's left hand in his own left hand, placing his right arm around her waist, and turns her to the left, in place, to face center. Couples return to original places in identical fashion. (Done with 16 steps: 4 across, 4 to turn, and back to places.)

Half Right and Left Through: Precisely the same as a "Right and Left Through," except that couples do *not* return to places, but cross the set, turn, and stand in new position (thus, done with 8 steps).

Half Promenade: Gent holds partner's left hand with own left hand, places right arm around her waist and crosses the set, passing opposite gent by the left shoulder. In new positions, couples turn to left, in place, and face center. (Done with 8 steps: 4 across and 4 to turn.)