

Jacqueline Becker & Volker Waizenegger – 17 June 2006

The Station Street Strathspey

A strathspey for three couples in a straight set

BARS	DESCRIPTION
1–4	1st couple set and cast off one place. 2nd couple step up on bars 3–4.
5–8	1st couple dance half a figure of eight around the 2nd couple, finishing in second place on opposite sides.
9–16	2nd, 1st, and 3rd couples dance mirror reels of three on the sides. To begin, 1st couple dance in and down from second place; 2nd couple dance out and down from first place; 3rd couple dance out and up. Partners may take nearer hands where appropriate.
17–20	1st couple turn one and a half times giving both hands to finish in the centre of the set facing up.
21–24	1st couple lead up to the top and cast off to 3rd place. 3rd couple step up on bars 23–24.
25–32	2nd, 3rd, and 1st couples dance six hands round and back.
Repeat from new positions.	

Jacqueline and Volker met in the Frankfurt Scottish Country Dance Club. This dance commemorates the fact that, at the time of their wedding, they lived in Bahnhofstrasse, or Station Street, as the title has it, in the city of Wiesbaden.

This is a simple dance without quick movements, suitable for performance in a bridal gown. It can also be danced in a four-couple set, with 1st couple casting off into second place on bars 23–24 and starting the circle from there.

This dance was intended to be performed at Jacqueline's and Volker's wedding reception by a set consisting of Eva and myself, Eva Thiemann (the maid of honour), Marie Schwarz, and the bridal couple themselves. The problem was that Eva Thiemann, not having access to a car, depended on Jacqueline and/or Volker for rides back and forth between Wiesbaden and Frankfurt for dance practice, and so it was impossible to rehearse this dance with her, but *without* the bride and groom present! Therefore the dance was initially presented to the Frankfurt group under the title of *The Minister o' Birse*, written by an obscure Scotsman called Alistair Laurie, while its actual title, provenance and intended use remained a closely held secret. Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith's recording of *The Sands of Forvie*, using *The Minister o' Birse* as the lead tune, remains the recommended "canned music" for this dance.