

THE PARTING GLASS

A 32 bar Strathspey for 3 couples in a 4 couple set

- 1-4** First and second couples dance *Pass Right Progression To Wit*: 1C and 2C dance forward and pass partner right shoulder (1 bar only) and immediately turn to the right. The couples should not dance to the other side, but remain reasonably close. They then dance in the direction they are facing, men down and ladies up, turning right again and then right again back to own sides into progressed places. (To wit: The men have the 2nd man leading, dance down to second place, turn right, dance to own side, turn right and then dance up the men's side, the finishing in order 2nd man at the top and first in second place; the ladies symmetrically, but starting upwards.)
- 5-8** 2C and 1C dance 4 hands round once. (Teaching note: For new dancers, the hint is that it is important that they get all the way back to side-lines. Else 1M has the desire to give LH to 3C.)
- 9-16** 1M with 3C and 1L with 2C dance right hands across followed by 1M with 2C and 1L with 3C dancing left hands across (teapots) finishing with more or less 1C right shoulder to right shoulder in the middle of second place facing partner's side, ready for.... (Don't rush)
- 17-18** 1C turn RH once round and finish facing second place on partner's side.
- 19-24** 1L dances a figure of eight across around the 3C passing left shoulder around 3M to begin and finishes between the 3C, who turn to face up. Similarly, 1M left shoulder around 2W, and finish between 2C who face down.
- 25-28** Up and down the set, 1M with 2C and 1L with 3C advance and retire.
- 29-32** 1C dance a two hand turn $1\frac{3}{4}$ to finish in second place.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

Notes Devised 25/2/2021 as a simple dance for a St. Patrick's Day themed club night. Revised 21/4/2024 (Bars 17-24 made simpler for newer dancers; the original version which I do like has the figure of 8 for all of bars 17-24)

rather than 19-24. But now I have danced it many times, I see that people, especially newer dancers, have significant difficulty with the phrasing.) I have used the simple pass right progression in the Johnsonville Collection. When I wrote this dance for the St Patrick's Day live music night, our new dancers had not done reels, and have only just started corners. Thus, the formations are chosen to suit these limitations. The recommended tune is obviously "The Parting Glass", and Aileen Logie made up a lovely set: The Parting Glass, Star of the County Down, Salley Gardens, and Ceol a' Phiobaire. The only recording of the lead tune for SCD seems tune 3 in "The Lea Rig" by Charlie Jemmett and his Band in the album "Down South". At a pinch any decent recording of "The Lea Rig" will work. *The Parting Glass* is a traditional song claimed by both the Scots and the Irish (but I suspect not the Presbyterians).