

THE DAISY CHAIN

A three couple, 32 bar strathspey.

1-8 First, second and third couples dance reels of three on the sides. First couple cross down between second couple, second couple dance out and up and third couple dance in and up to begin. First couple finish on opposite sides facing down while second couple finish in original places facing up.

9-12 First and second couples set twice.

13-16 First and second couples turn with left hands one and a half times. First and second men finish facing out.

17-24 Second and first couples dance a ladies' chain across the set.

25-28 Second, first and third couples, with nearer hands joined on the sides, advance with two travelling steps and retire with two travelling steps.

29-32 First couple turns with two hands one and a half time to finish on own sides.

Repeat having passed a couple.

Devised June 1998 as a teaching dance to introduce 'ladies' chain'. (Note May 2022: Of course now I would not dream of doing crossover reels before ladies' chain. However, there are very few dances with ladies' chain in Strathspey time, and I continue to use this for such purposes.) Recommended music is a strong strathspey such as "Barbara Rae" by Paul Machlis, which is the lead tune for "Bonnie Flowers o'er the Muir" with a suitable recording being by the Berkeley Scottish Players "None So Pretty". (This corrects my early misunderstanding of the name of the tune.)

Daisy Macdonald Fanning is my niece. The dance celebrates her birth.

Modified 5/5/2022. I no longer like the suggested alternative bars 29-32, which read as "Alternative) Second, first and third couples turn with both hands to finish on own sides" as I think it detracts from the first couples' moment to have the last say in the dance, so I have removed.