

Strangeness and Charm

A 32 bar strathspey for three couples in a three couple longwise set.

Although this dance really has nothing to do with quarks, I have noticed that the names of two of the six types of quark, “up” and “down”, appear frequently in the instructions for dances while two others, “top” and “bottom”, are seen occasionally. However the two most whimsically named quarks, “strange” and “charm”, are virtually never mentioned at all. So the title of this dance is an attempt to rectify that omission! Hopefully 1st couple will show each other some charm at least in bars 5-6 while bars 21-24 are probably a bit strange for everyone.

Bars Description

- 1-4 1st couple dance down below 3rd couple and cast up to 2nd place with 2nd couple stepping up on bars 3-4.
- 5-8 1st couple dance around each other, passing right shoulder, with smiles but no hands and cast back up to 1st place. 2nd couple step down again on bars 7-8.
- 9-16 All dance mirror reels of three on the sides with all crossing down to the opposite side from 1st place. 1st couple start by crossing down, 2nd couple start out and up, 3rd couple start in and up.
- 17-20 All set on opposite sides and cross over giving right hands to own sides.
- 21-24 All set on the sides. Then 1st couple turn by the right hand into promenade hold facing up while 2nd couple cast into 3rd place and take promenade hold while 3rd couple dance in, take promenade hold and dance up to 2nd place.
- 25-32 All dance a three couple allemande to end in progressed places 231.

Music

- Example recording: September in Skye (Platinum 70th Anniversary Dances - Belfast Branch: Marian Anderson and her Band).