

Xylem and Phloem

A 32 bar strathspey for three couples in a nominally triangular set - though best viewed as a hexagon with six equally spaced dancers. In bars 9-16 the top two and bottom two dance together as in a square set. In bars 17-24 all dance with the diametrically opposite person.

Xylem and phloem are different types of tissue found in trees. Samara is the name for the seed pods of the Maple family with triangular wings that rotate away from their parent tree as they fall which is reminiscent of the twirling and chasing in the figure of bars 17-24.

The title sounds a bit like "Silent and Flowing" as a dancer's feet and figures should be.

Bars Description

1-8 1st couple dance a figure of eight on their own side around 2nd or 3rd couple, starting by dancing down with nearer hands joined, then out between the side couples and end back in original places.

9-16 1st couple with 2nd man and 3rd woman dance lefts and rights, starting by changing places up and down with the left hand and ending with a half right hand turn to face each other. 3rd man and 2nd woman face across the set.

All dance the "Samara" progression, ending in the order 2,3,1.

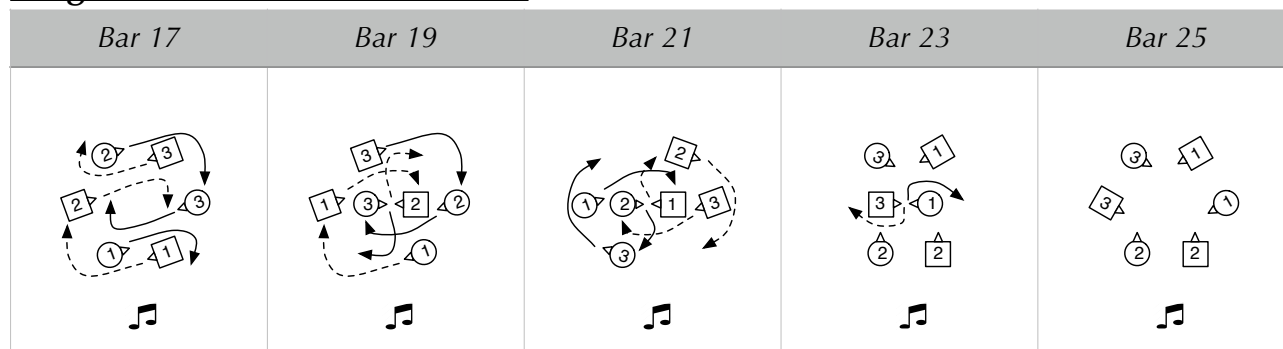
	<u>3rd man & 2nd woman</u>	<u>2nd man & 1st woman</u>	<u>1st man & 3rd woman</u>
17-18	Half turn giving both hands to end facing each other in the centre.	Chase a third of the way round clockwise to 3rd man's and 2nd woman's places.	Petronella, along the side, one position to their right to end in 1st woman's and 2nd man's places and face clockwise.
19-20	Petronella, curving out to their right, to end in 1st man's and 3rd woman's places and face clockwise. They should let 1st man & 3rd woman pass in front.	Half turn giving both hands to end facing each other in the centre.	Chase a third of the way round clockwise to 2nd woman's and 3rd man's places. They should keep ahead of 3rd man & 2nd woman.
21-22	Chase a third of the way round clockwise to 1st woman's and 2nd man's places and face in.	Petronella, curving out to their right, to end in 1st man's and 3rd woman's places and face in.	Half turn giving both hands to end facing each other in the centre.
23-24	Set.	Set.	Starting forward, pull right shoulder back and cast away curving to the position behind them.

25-32 All circle six hands round to the left and back, ending in the order 2,3,1.

Music

- Tune: Margaret's Ghost
- Recording: 3x32 Song Airs (Green Ginger: Miss Ogilvie's Fancy)

Diagrams (music at the bottom)



Notes

- The figure of bars 17-24 was inspired by the Rose progression (devised by Rod Downey) which is here extended to three couples. The executive summary is:
 - 3rd man & 2nd woman: half turn, petronella, chase, set;
 - 2nd man & 1st woman: chase, half turn, petronella, set;
 - 1st man & 3rd woman: petronella, chase, half turn, cast away.
- When 3rd man & 2nd woman petronella out to the sides they should curve enough to let 1st man & 3rd woman chase in front of them.