

The Camel of Hastings

A 32 bar strathspey for four couples in a longwise set.

The title is short for "The Camel of Hastings Street, London WC1H" which is too much of a mouthful. The camel itself is a gold coloured statue sitting above a doorway, looking down at passers by. It has a saddle for riders, which in my single, never to be repeated, experience of riding a camel, is extremely uncomfortable. The saddle also hides whether there are one or two humps, so this dance features both. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is also for camels!

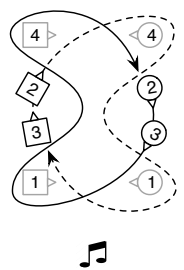
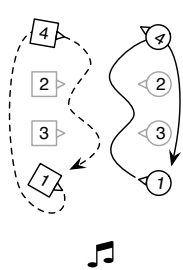
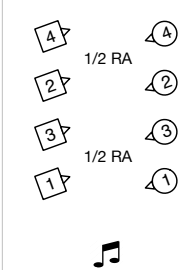
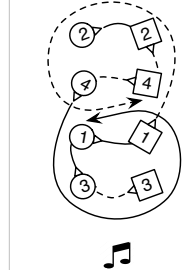
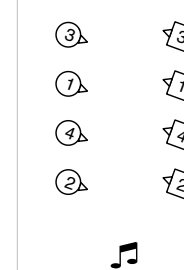
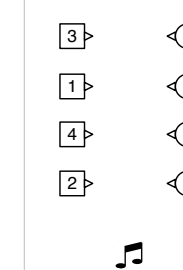
Bars Description

- 1-4 **Oases.** 1st and 2nd couples, also 3rd and 4th couples, each circle four hands once round to the left.
- 5-8 2nd and 3rd couples each half turn their partner with the right hand, then dance half right hands across. 2nd and 3rd women face down, 3rd and 2nd men face up, both in tandem.
- 9-16 **Dromedary (one hump).** 2nd and 3rd women dance half a tandem figure of eight down round 4th man while 3rd and 2nd men dance half a figure of eight up round 1st woman. Each tandem pair curves in towards the centre, passing the other pair right shoulder, and curves out again to dance another half figure of eight, right shoulder around 1st man and 4th woman respectively, crossing over to their own side to end in the order 1,3,2,4.
- 17-22 **Bactrian (two humps).** 1st man and 4th woman dance in (1 bar) towards the centre, out (1 bar) towards the sides between 2nd and 3rd places, in (1 bar) towards the centre line and right shoulder round 3rd man and 2nd woman (1 bar), then cast up or down behind their own lines (2 bars) to end in their original places.
Meanwhile 1st woman and 4th man follow the same path and phrasing, but they start by casting behind their own line to the other end of the set, then dance in, right shoulder around 3rd man and 2nd woman, out towards the sides between 2nd and 3rd places, in towards the centre line and in front of 2nd woman and 3rd man pulling right shoulder back to end in their original places.
- 23-24 1st and 3rd couples, also 2nd and 4th couples, each dance half right hands across and stay in the centre. 1st woman and 4th man face out.
- 25-30 **Camel trains.** 1st woman followed by 1st man, 3rd man and 3rd woman, also 4th man followed by 4th woman, 2nd woman and 2nd man, each dance a four couple Snake Pass round the other four dancers passing them left shoulder. 1st woman and 4th man cross over again so that all end on the opposite side, in the other half of the set, in the order 2,4,1,3.
- 31-32 All cross over with the left hand to end on their own sides in the order 2,4,1,3.

Music

- Suggested tune: Lomond Hills (Chris Dewhurst).
- Suitable recording: Lomond Hills (Chris, Julie & Nick Dewhurst: Short & Sweet).

Diagrams (music at the bottom)

Bars 9-16	Bars 17-22	Bars 23-24	Bars 25-30	Bars 31-32	End
					

The Camel	and its context
	
For the history of the statue see https://skiddersarmslondon.com/camel-story .	