

The Migratory Duet

(From Albion to Aotearoa)

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

This is for Mike and Judith Hanson who, in their retirement, now split their time between Britain (also poetically known as Albion) and New Zealand (whose Maori name is Aotearoa) to enjoy the warmer parts of the year in each country. See <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aotearoa> for the pronunciation.

Bars Description

- 1-2 1st couple set while 2nd couple cross over giving right hands and face out.
- 3-8 1st and 2nd couples dance three quarters of a double figure of eight. 1st couple start by crossing down as 2nd couple cast up. 1st couple end in 2nd place facing out.
- 9-16 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance the Promenade Chain Progression:
- 1-2: 2nd and 3rd couples turn three quarters with the right hand to the centre line while 1st couple dance a quarter clockwise to the ends of the centre line.
 - 3-6: 1st man with 2nd woman, also 1st woman with 3rd man, each promenade half way round clockwise to the other end of the centre line while 2nd man and 3rd woman in the centre turn one and a half times with the left hand.
 - 7-8: 3rd and 2nd couples turn three quarters with the right hand while 1st couple dance a quarter clockwise to 2nd place.
- All end on their own sides in the order 3,1,2.
- 17-20 1st couple half turn their 1st corner with the right hand, then cast round their 4th corner as the 1st corners dance right shoulder round each other. All end where they started.
- 21-24 1st couple half turn their 2nd corner with the left hand, then cast round their 3rd corner as the 2nd corners dance left shoulder round each other. All end where they started.

Basic Version

- 25-32 1st and 2nd couples dance an all round strathspey poussette. The final order is 3,1,2.

Advanced Version

- 25-32 All dance a three couple "Rainbow Poussette" figure:
- 3rd and 2nd couples dance the pattern of an all round strathspey poussette from 1st and 3rd places passing widely through 2nd place on the sides at the end of bars 2 and 5. They split the quarter turns on the hop between the end of those bars and the start of the next bar to align up and down with 1st couple. For bars 3-4 they should be about half a place either side of 2nd place and be fairly closely back to back at the end of bar 4.
- Meanwhile 1st couple dance between and around the other two couples:
- 1-2: Set advancing to the centre line. At the end of bar 2 all three couples should be in a line across in 2nd place, all the men facing down to their partners who face up.
 - 3-4: Turn three quarters with the right hand and start to cast clockwise. With long steps all three couples could be aligned along the 1st diagonal at the end of bar 4.
 - 5-6: Continue casting and dance in to meet in 2nd place on the centre line with both hands joined. All three couples are now on the centre line, facing on the 2nd diagonal.
 - 7-8: All three couples turn just over half way with both hands and retire to the sidelines.
- The final order is 3,1,2.

Notes

- Judith is fond of more elegant strathspeys so I hoped the three couple "Rainbow Pousette" would appeal as much to her as it does to me. This lovely figure was adapted from Skyte Neuk by the Tanzbaeren for their 2025 Virtual Festival entry entitled "Return of the Rainbow". However this can be challenging so the basic version is for just two couples to dance the standard all round pousette.

Music

- Judith's favourite slow air tune: Down by the Salley Gardens (Traditional).
- 4x32 recording with this tune: Compliments to Mrs Jessie Bain (Colin Dewar and his SDB: A' the best fae Banffshire). 1st couple can dance an encore.
- Or 3x32 traditional strathspey recording: Tom's Friends (Muriel Johnstone's SDB: Haste Ye Back).

Diagrams (music at the bottom) for the advanced version of bars 25-32

Bars 17-18	Bars 19-20	Bars 21-22	Bars 23-24	Bar 25	Bar 26
Bar 27	Bar 28	Bar 29	Bar 30	Bar 31	Bar 32



Mike and Judith Hanson - in Aotearoa