The Palm Court Star

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

This is for Adam Bakker who liked the Stellar Chain Progression figure. Adam is a musician and is fond of Palm Court music hence the title. He is the organiser of the Aspidistra Drawing Room Orchestra.

Bars	*Description*
1-4	1st couple set advancing to each other then half turn giving both hands and pull back their right shoulder to face the opposite side.
5-8	1st couple cast off as 2nd couple step up, then cross over giving left hands to face out in 2nd place on their own side.
9-16	1st couple dance reels of three on their own sides starting left shoulder to their 4th corner. The corners end facing in but 1st couple dance into place still left shoulder to each other.
	All dance a Stellar Chain Progression (bars 17-24)
17-18	2nd and 3rd couples each turn their partner three quarters giving right hands to end on the centre line. Meanwhile 1st couple cross over giving left hands and retain hands directly across from each other in the centre.
19-22	2nd woman and 3rd man each dance clockwise half way round the set to the other end of the centre line. Meanwhile 2nd man, 1st couple and 3rd woman - with long steps - dance left hands across one and a half times in 4 bars.
23-24	3rd and 2nd couples each turn their partner three quarters giving right hands to end on the sides in 1st and 3rd places. Meanwhile 1st couple dance on a bit further anticlockwise, then pull back right shoulder and curve out to their right ending in 2nd place on their own side. The order is now 3,1,2.
25-32	All circle six hands round to the left for 3 bars, then dance into the centre on bar 4. On bar 5 all cast away pulling left shoulder back, then chase anticlockwise to their own sides.

Music

- Suggested tune: To be decided.
- Suitable recording: A Diamond In Sutton Coldfield (Chris, Julie & Nick Dewhurst: Short & Sweet).

Notes

- The Stellar Chain Progression is a different way of adding a third couple to the basic two couple Chain Progression. The two couples doing the chain start from 1st and 3rd places and the extra couple in the centre join in to dance a left hands across (star) one and a half times rather than just two dancers turning one and a half times.
- There are of course other possible variations of the Stellar Chain Progression than the one above. For example instead of the central couple crossing over in bars 1-2 of the figure and casting away in bars 7-8 they could use bars 1-2 to either set advancing or pull right shoulder back and cast into the left hands across from their own side and afterwards cross back to their own side in bars 7-8.

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