

Side by Side with Roger

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

This dance is for Roger Keeling who liked the Hand-in-hand reels in Kindness and Marmalade. These appear in several dances by Duncan and Maggie Keppie. Roger dances with the Croydon Branch, London Branch and various other groups in London. He has helped run several of these groups for many years, in particular the London Highland Club.

The dance was originally called "Hand in Hand with Roger", but Roger preferred "Side by Side".

Bars Description

- 1-2 1st couple cross over giving right hands and face out while 2nd couple set.
- 3-8 1st and 2nd couples dance three quarters of a double figure of eight, giving hands. 1st couple start by casting off as 2nd couple cross up giving left hands. Then 1st and 2nd couples each give right hands as they cross up on bars 5-6 and 7-8 respectively. 2nd couple stay facing each other on their last crossing up to 1st place. 1st couple end in the centre in 2nd place with nearer hands joined facing down to 3rd woman on the diagonal.
- 9-16 1st couple dance a diagonal Hand-in-hand reel of three on the 1st diagonal, starting by passing 3rd woman left shoulder:
- The 1st corners dance a normal diagonal reel of three.
 - 1st couple, as they loop round at the corners, drop nearer hands and each pull their left shoulder back (bar 2) or right shoulder back (bar 6) – as if dancing the reel on their own – and then take the other nearer hand to continue the reel. 1st couple stay side by side throughout, each nearer their own side. They end in the centre with nearer hands joined facing 3rd man on the diagonal.
- 17-24 1st couple dance a diagonal Hand-in-hand reel of three on the 2nd diagonal, starting by passing 3rd man right shoulder. 1st couple end in the centre facing down with nearer hands still joined.
- 25-28 1st couple dance down below 3rd couple and cast up to 2nd place on their own sides.
- 29-32 1st woman with 2nd couple, also 1st man with 3rd couple, each dance right hands across ending on the sides in the order 2,1,3.

Music

- Suggested tune: O Whistle and I'll come tae ye, my lad (Traditional).
- Suitable recording: The Handsel (Green Ginger: 12 Scottish Country Dances - by Mervin Short).

Tune Notes

Meryl Thomson kindly supplied a transcription (and transposition) of the tune they used in The Handsel recording. The tune is also in Alexander's New Scrap Book (Volume 6) for which there is an online scan at [https://imslp.org/wiki/Alexander%27s_New_Scrap_Book_\(Various\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Alexander%27s_New_Scrap_Book_(Various)): click View and then scroll to page 82 of the PDF (page 79 in the book). Or see the screenshot below.

Note that the Traditional Tune Archive has a tune with a very similar name (see https://tunearch.org/wiki/O_Whistle_and_I%27ll_Come_to_Ye_My_Lad). However this appears to be a different tune.

Transcription (and transposition) by Green Ginger

O whistle and I'll come tae ye, my lad

The transcription shows the following chord markings below the notes:

Staff 1: Bb, Bb, Bb, F, Bb, Bb

Staff 2: Bb, F, Bb, Bb, Eb, Bb, Bb

Staff 3: Eb, Bb, F1, Bb, Eb, F, Bb, F, Bb

Scan from Alexander's New Scrap Book (Volume 6)

OH! WHISTLE AND ILL COME TO THEE MY LAD
Lively
972
35