

for the New York Branch of the R.S.C.D.S

Pastoral - 4 couples - 32 bars

Tune - "Miss Laura Andrew" by J. Scott Skinner, "Harp and Claymore" - page 22.
see also - "The Fiddle Music of Scotland" James Hunter, page 40.

1st couple with 2nd couple, and 3rd couple with 4th couple, set on the sides, then "link" (as in "The Dean Bridge of Edinburgh", Book 23 no 4).

2nd couple with 1st couple, and 4th couple with 3rd couple, dance four hands round to finish on the side lines in the order 2,1,4,3.

Reels of four on own sides.

At the end:- 2nd couple finish in top place, and 3rd couple finish in fourth place;
1st man and 4th woman dance in to face one another in second and third places, on the diagonal line between top place on the men's side and fourth place on the women's;
4th man (dancing in behind 1st man) and 1st woman (dancing in behind 4th woman) move in to face one another on the diagonal line between top place on the women's side and fourth place on the men's.

1st and 4th couples join hands in a circle.

17-20 1st and 4th couples set in a circle, then dance four hands round to the left half-way round. On Bar 20 they dance in slightly and pull right shoulders back to face the "corners".

4th woman is facing 2nd man, 4th man 2nd woman, 1st woman 3rd man, and 1st man 3rd woman.

21-24 4th and 1st couples turn their "corners" with the right hand. (all dance four steps)

At the end:- 4th man dances straight across in second place, while 4th woman dances down diagonally between 2nd couple, so that 4th couple finish in second place on own sides;

In a similar way, 1st woman dances straight across, while 1st man dances up diagonally between 3rd couple, to finish in third place on own sides.

25-28 4th and 1st couples set on the sides, then turn partners with both hands. 4th couple open up to face up, while 1st couple open up to face down.

29-32 4th couple dance up between 2nd couple and cast off to second place, while 1st couple dance down between 3rd couple and cast up to third place.

The finishing order is 2,4,1,3.

Repeat from new places

Following a suggestion from Bobby MacLeod of Tobermory, I have called this dance a "Pastoral" rather than a "Strathspey". A "Pastoral" should be played slowly and danced with strathspey-like steps.