

THE TRAIL OF THE SWAN

dance devised by
John Drowry

for Linda Gaul of Glasgow

The title comes from the English words of the Gaelic Song "An Coineachan" (Fairy Lullaby).

"I followed the trail of the swan on the lake.....
But never a sign of my baby O.

I followed the trail of the mountain mist.....
But never a sign of my baby O."

Strathspey - 3 couples - 32 bars.

Tune - Miss Dow's Fancy.

BARS

- 1 - 4 1st couple and 2nd couple set on the sides, then 1st couple, giving right hands, cross to second place on wrong sides and stay facing out, while 2nd couple cast up to top place on own sides.
- 5 - 6 1st couple turn their second corners by the left hand.
- 7 - 8 1st couple "pass right, then join left" (See note below).
1st couple are on a line across the dance in second place, with 1st man facing up and 1st lady facing down.
- 9 - 12 1st lady dances right hands across with 2nd and 3rd men on the men's side, while 1st man dances right hands across with 2nd and 3rd ladies on the ladies' side.
1st couple finish facing second corners.
- 13-16 Second corners "pass and turn". On Bars 15-16, 1st couple "pass right then join left".
1st couple are on a line up the centre of the dance facing wrong sides.
- 17-20 1st lady dances right hands across with 2nd couple, while 1st man dances right hands across with 3rd couple.
1st couple finish facing first corners.
- 21-24 First corners "pass and turn". On Bar 24 1st man turns towards his partner and joins nearer hands with her so that they are both facing down in the centre of the dance. (This movement is like "pass right then join left" so far as 1st man is concerned, but 1st lady continues to dance down).
- 25-28 1st couple dance down between 3rd couple then cast up to second place on own sides.
- 29-32 Joining nearer hands, 1st couple dance up between 2nd couple then cast off to second place on own sides.
- Repeat, having passed a couple.

"PASS RIGHT THEN JOIN LEFT"

This movement takes two bars of music. On the first bar, 1st couple dance just past one another passing by the right - they should be slightly further apart than when making a wide turn by the right hand. On the second bar, 1st couple turn towards one another and join left hands just for the duration of the last beat of the second bar (i.e. a very brief joining of hands).

The movement must be danced with style and panache or it loses its character.