

Highland Cathedral

Dance for couples around the room

16 bar March, repeated ad lib

- 1 Moving diagonally forward to the right, step onto the left foot and point with the right foot.
- 2 Step behind on the right, beside on the left, in front on the right, and beside on the left.
- 3 Moving diagonally forward to the left, step onto the right foot and point with the left foot.
- 4 Step behind on the left, beside on the right, in front on the left, and swing round changing grip to face partner, both hands joined.
- 5 Balance away from partner and towards.
- 6 Moving along line of dance, turn solo away from partner (i.e. lady pulls back right shoulder and man pulls back left shoulder).
- 7 Balance towards partner and away.
- 8 Move towards partner, lady dancing under man's raised right arm to finish with lady in front of man facing along line of dance, with lady's arms crossed, man's arms around lady, hands still joined.
- 9-10 In this position, take two side steps to the right and two side steps back again.
- 11-12 Repeat bars 9-10, unwinding at the end of bar 12 so the lady faces the man.
- 13-14 Take two side steps to the right (note this is now away from your partner) and two side steps back again, and join with right hand on partner's waist and left hand on partner's shoulder.
- 15-16 Birl.

Repeat ad lib.

At a party after the Edinburgh Branch Festival Fringe Show "Spirit of Scotland" on the 9th of August, 2002, Shona Pearmain was bemoaning the fact that no-one had ever written a dance for her. When asked what she would like, she said it wasn't to be a 4-couple set, it should include unusual movements, and it should include a birl. When asked for suggestions for tunes, she specified "Highland Cathedral" with the additional restriction that the dance wasn't to be a strathspey. I think this satisfies all the specifications....

I presented her with the first attempt before the matinee performance next day, and we tried it out in the garden at the end-of-show party that evening. It was not particularly danceable. So this is a revised attempt which retains much of the character of the original while making it (I hope) much easier and more pleasant to dance.

This dance is still under development, and may well be superseded by a waltz to "Mist-Covered Mountains" with similar figures.

Tune: Highland Cathedral

(Roever/Korb)

(cc) Ian Brockbank, August 2002