



***9 English Country Dances
by Tom Siess***

BEFORE THE FALL

3 couple longways

Dance and tune by Tom Siess, 2003

- A 1 - 4 Partners right-hand turn once around [*end with 1s facing down, others facing up*].
5 - 8 Half mirror hey, 1s splitting 2s to start.
9-12 Partners left-hand turn once around [*end with 1s facing up, others facing down*].
13-16 Half mirror hey, 1s splitting 2s to start.
- B1 1 - 8 1s poussette to the bottom: top two couples (1 & 2) half poussette clockwise (M1 pushing), bottom two couples (1 & 3) half poussette counterclockwise (W1 pushing).
9 - 12 1s lead up the center and cast down to middle place; 2s move up.
13-16 Partners set and turn single.
- B2 1 - 8 Back-to-back & orbit figures:
1-4 On right diagonals, 4 facing people back-to-back *while* corner people trade places orbiting counterclockwise around the outside, skipping.
5-8 On left diagonals, 4 facing people back-to-back, *while* corner people trade places orbiting clockwise around the outside, skipping.
[Order is now 3-1-2, top & bottom couples improper.]
9 - 12 Bottom couple star to the top: bottom two couples (1 & 2) star right halfway, *while* top couple gypsy right shoulder halfway, then top two couples (2 & 3) star left halfway.
[Order is now 2-3-1, all improper.]
13-16 Partners set and cross, passing right shoulder.

BEFORE THE FALL

This musical score is for the song "Before the Fall" in G major, 6/8 time. It consists of a guitar part and a vocal line. The guitar part is written in a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The chord progression is as follows:

- Measure 1: G
- Measure 2: Bm
- Measure 3: Am
- Measure 4: D
- Measure 5: G
- Measure 6: D
- Measure 7: G
- Measure 8: Em
- Measure 9: G
- Measure 10: Bm
- Measure 11: G
- Measure 12: D7
- Measure 13: G
- Measure 14: D
- Measure 15: G
- Measure 16: C
- Measure 17: Bm
- Measure 18: Am
- Measure 19: G
- Measure 20: D
- Measure 21: G
- Measure 22: Em
- Measure 23: G
- Measure 24: Bm
- Measure 25: G
- Measure 26: D7
- Measure 27: G
- Measure 28: D
- Measure 29: 1. G
- Measure 30: 2. G

The vocal line is written in a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a melody with various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, along with rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

DANCING IN THE SPRINGTIME

3 couple longways

Dance and tune by Tom Siess, 2007

- A1 1 - 8 Grand Chain: 1s face across, 2s and 3s face up. 1s pull by right hand, then left hand to 2s and right hand to 3s, etc.), ending in the middle, improper (*there are a total of 8 changes, counting the first "pull by".*)
[Order is now 2 - 1 - 3, with 1s improper.]
- A2 1 - 4 1s half figure-eight down through 3s *while* 2s do a 2-hand turn.
5 - 8 1s half figure-eight up through 2s *while* 3s do a 2-hand turn.
- B1 1 - 2 1s left-hand turn halfway into . . .
3 - 8 Heys at the top and bottom - man down, woman up [*1s end in middle place, proper.*]
- B2 1 - 4 Hands 6 and slip left, halfway.
5 - 8 Set to partner and cross by the right to place.

DANCING IN THE SPRINGTIME

The musical score for "Dancing in the Springtime" is presented in four staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/2. The music is written in treble clef. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The second staff ends with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The third and fourth staves also end with repeat signs and double bar lines. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, D, G, C, D in the first staff; C, G, D, G in the second; G, D, C, G, G, C, D in the third; and G, D, C, G, D, G in the fourth.

HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER

Duple minor longways

Dance and tune by Tom Siess, 2006

A wedding tribute to Barb and John

- A
- 1 - 3 All right-hand turn partners, once around, ending close.
 - 4 Fall back to places.
 - 5 - 6 All left-hand star halfway, to improper places.
 - 7 - 8 All turn single right (to face partners.)
 - 9-11 All left-hand turn partners, once around, ending close.
 - 12 Fall back to places.
 - 13-14 All right-hand star halfway, to home places.
 - 15-16 All turn single left.
- B
- 1 - 2 1st corners cross, right shoulder (Hole in the Wall).
 - 3 - 4 2nd corners cross, right shoulder (Hole in the Wall).
 - 5 - 8 All left shoulder gypsy with partner, 1½ times.
 - 9-12 All process single-file counterclockwise 4 places (to progressed places), turning to face partner at the end.
 - 13-16 Four changes of a circular hey (no hands.)

This dance was composed to celebrate the wedding of Barbara Broerman and John Patcai, and was first performed at Pinewoods Camp English Dance Week, August 2007. It has been significantly revised since then, with many helpful suggestions from Joanna Reiner.

HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER

The musical score for "Hands Across the Border" is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes. The guitar chords are indicated by letters above the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Staff 1: G C G D Am C Am

Staff 2: G D G C Am C G

Staff 3: C G D G C Bm Am G

Staff 4: C Bm D G C

Staff 5: Am C G G D G

THE HONOURABLE PARTNERS

4 couples, square set

Dance and tune by Tom Siess, 1998

Composed for David and Catherine Gallop, for the celebration of their 70th Birthdays

- A1: 1 - 8 All forward and back a double; left-hand turn corners.
9-16 All forward and back a double; right-hand turn partners.
- B1: 1 - 4 Men right-hand star halfway (4) and fall back to opposite men's places (4).
5 - 8 All set and turn single, with new partners.
9-12 Men right-hand star halfway (4) and fall back to home places (4).
13-16 Men step and honour right and left to partners.
- A2: 1 - 8 All side over with partners; then, on the siding back, remain facing toward corners, moving directly into left-hand turn corners.
9 -16 All side with partners; right-hand turn partners.
- B2: 1 - 4 Women left-hand star halfway (4) and fall back to opposite women's places (4).
5 - 8 All set and turn single, with new partners.
9 -12 Women left-hand star halfway (4) and fall back to home places (4).
13-16 Women step and honour right and left to partners.
- A3: 1 - 8 All arm right with partners and stay facing toward corners at end of arming, moving directly into left-hand turn corners.
9-16 All arm left with partner; right-hand turn partners.
- B3 1 - 4 All left-hand star halfway (4) and fall back to opposite couples' places (4).
5 - 8 All set and turn single with partners.
9-12 All left-hand star halfway to home places.
13-16 All step and honour partners, right and left.

THE HONOURABLE PARTNERS

A

Em B Em G C

Em B Em Am

B C Em Am B Em

B

Em C B

Am Em B Em Bm

Am Em Am Bm Em B Em

LE TÊTE DE RICHARD

Duple minor, improper

Dance and tune by Tom Siess, 2004

- A1 1 - 4 Women cross, right shoulder (2); Men cross, right shoulder (2).
5 - 6 Right-hand star halfway.
7 - 8 All turn single left.
- A2 1 - 4 Men cross, left shoulder (2); Women cross, left shoulder (2).
5 - 6 Left-hand star halfway.
7 - 8 All turn single right.
- B1 1 - 4 Women cast over left shoulder (*W1 down, W2 up*) and go behind men to each other's place.
5 - 8 Men cast over right shoulder (*M1 down, M2 up*) and go behind women to each other's place.
9-14 Three changes of rights and lefts, beginning with neighbour.
15-16 All cloverleaf turn single.

At Pinewoods one year, one of the campers was behaving rather badly. Our friend, Carolyn Aplin, put the tips of her fingers on the top of her head, with her elbows pointing out to the sides, and told us this was the universal sign for "dick head". We've used that sign a number of times but it didn't seem like a good dance title. The French version did seem to fit the bill. The tune and dance are dedicated to Carolyn's memory.

LE TÊTE DE RICHARD

The musical score is written in 6/8 time and consists of six staves. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb). The chords used are F, F7, Bb, Eb, and F. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some triplet eighth notes. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Staff 1: F, F7, Bb, Eb, F

Staff 2: F, F7, Bb, F, Bb

Staff 3: Bb, F7, Bb, F

Staff 4: Bb, F7, Eb, F

Staff 5: Bb, F, Eb, Bb, Eb, F

Staff 6: Bb, Eb, F7, Bb

THE ROVING LANCE

Square set for 4 couples

Dance and tune by Tom Siess, 2000

- A1 1 - 2 Lead forward with partner (3 steps) and fall back with corner (3 steps).
3 - 4 Step and honour corner, right and left.
5 - 6 Lead forward with corner (3 steps) and fall back with partner (3 steps)
7 - 8 Step and honour partner, right and left.
- B1 1 - 4 Head couples meet; lead opposite through side couples, and return home.
5 - 8 Side couples, the same.
9-12 Weave the ring, halfway, beginning RSh with partner, without hands.
13-16 Meet partner and promenade home (taking right hands).
- A2 1 - 2 Right-shoulder gypsy with partner – finish facing corner.
3 - 4 Step and honour corner, right and left.
5 - 6 Left-shoulder gypsy with corner – finish facing partner.
7 - 8 Step and honour partner, right and left.
- B2 1 - 4 Head couples cast to separate and go outside side couples to meet opposites (M1&W3; M3&W1); give right hands to opposite, and women turn to lead new man back to woman's home place, *while* side couples circle 4.
5 - 8 Repeat, with side couples meeting and leading, *while* head couples circle 4 clockwise (*Women are home and men have progressed 2 places*).
9-12 Weave the ring, halfway, beginning right shoulder with new partner, without hands; men left-hand star halfway (returning to opposite places).
(*Everyone has progressed 2 places.*)
2-hand turn partner in opposite place.
- A3 1 - 2 Arm right with partner and finish facing corner.
3 - 4 Step and honour corner, right and left.
5 - 6 Arm left with corner.
7 - 8 Step and honour partner, right and left.
- B3 1 - 4 Head couples separate and go behind sides, *while* side couples turn out and make arches. Meet opposite (M1&W3; M3&W1) and lead through arches made by side couples, and move out to the place on the right (*the man's progressed place*); end facing out, making arches.
5 - 8 Side couples repeat, going through arches made by head couples .
(*Women are in original home place; men are in progressed places.*)
9-12 Weave the ring, halfway, beginning right shoulder with new partner, without hands; women right-hand star halfway (to original home places) to meet partner.
(*Everyone is home.*)
2-hand turn partner in home place.

THE ROVING LANCE

The musical score for "The Roving Lance" is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The chords are indicated above the notes as follows:

- Staff 1: G, C, G, C, Am, Am, D7
- Staff 2: G, C, G, C, Am, D, G
- Staff 3: G, C, D7, G, Em, G, D
- Staff 4: G, Am, C, Bm, Em, A, D
- Staff 5: Em, Bm, F, Dm, G
- Staff 6: Am, G, C, G, C, D7, G

Our dear friend Peter Redgate always said that he wanted to have an alter ego known as Lance Hardrock. One of his passions was getting on his motorcycle and roving the back roads on a sunny weekend afternoon. The dance was composed in his memory.

SCOTCH ON THE ROCKS

3 couple longways

Dance and tune by Tom Siess, 2011

In celebration of the upcoming marriage of Gerry Rucchin & Tracey McDonald

- A
- 1 - 4 Partners set and turn single.
 - 5 - 6 Partners take right hand and balance forward and back.
 - 7 - 8 Men turn partners under right arm.
 - 9-12 1s long cast to 2nd place, 2s moving up.
 - 13-16 1s cross right shoulder and go below 3s, who move up.
(Order 2-3-1; 1s proper, 2s & 3s improper.)
- B
- 1 - 4 1s (at bottom) half poussette with 3s (in middle), starting by M1 & M3 moving forward.
 - 5 - 8 1s (in middle) half poussette with 2s (at top), starting by W1 & W2 moving forward.
 - 9-12 1s & 2s two changes of rights and lefts, starting with partner.
 - 13-16 1s & 3s two changes of rights and lefts, starting with neighbour.

In the auction at our Spring dance weekend, I offered to write a tune and dance. Tracey McDonald took me up on the offer. Tracey, as her name clearly indicates, is Scottish. Tracey and Gerry are avid curlers, a game played on ice, with game pieces called "rocks".

SCOTCH ON THE ROCKS

A

F C B \flat F B \flat F B \flat C

Dm B \flat B \flat 6 C F C F

B

B \flat C Dm C B \flat F

C F C Dm B \flat F B \flat C F B \flat C F

Silver Blossoms for the (True) North

Duple minor longways

Dance by Tom Siess, 2012

Tune by B. H. Peters, 2002

- A 1 - 2 All process two places, clockwise, to opposite corner position.
3 - 4 All turn single to the left.
5 - 8 1st corner positions (M1 & W2) change places; 2nd corners change.
9 - 12 Half draw poussette, M1 & W2 backing up.
13-16 Slow step and honour partner, both right and left.
- B 1 - 8 Double figure-eight: 2s (at the top) cast, cross up the set, cast to bottom and cross up to starting places *while* 1s cross up, cast to the bottom, cross up and cast to starting places.
9-10 Partners take right hands and balance forward and back.
11-12 Men turn their partners under the right arm.
13-16 All set and turn single.

Silver Blossoms for the (True) North was composed to celebrate the 25th Annual London English Dance Weekend, in 2012.

The Blossom and the Rain

©B. H. Peters, 2002

The Blossom and the Rain

Em G

D Em

Em G

D Bm Em

C G

D Em

C G Em

C D Em

© B. H. Peters 2002

I suppose this is the one tune of mine that has made the most impression on people. I've heard it played on the harp, fiddle, Northumbrian pipes and concert grand piano, and every version has brought out something different. I tend to treat it as an air rather than a waltz, playing it once as single-note melody before bringing in gentle chords without the basses. Written in 1992 in a pub in Coleford, a small and slightly eerie town in the Forest of Dean, where I'd arrived too early for the folk club.

A VERY COMICAL FELLOW

Duple minor longways

Dance and tune by Tom Siess, 2004

- A1 1 – 4 Move 2 places clockwise, one double step to each place, then turn over left shoulder into . . .
5 – 8 Left-hand star, all the way (skipping.)
- A2 1 – 4 Move 2 places counterclockwise, one double to each place, then turn over right shoulder into . . .
5 – 8 Right-hand star all the way (skipping.)
- B1 1 – 8 Double figure-eight: 1s cross down between 2s; 2s cast up and cross down; 1s cast up, 2s cross down, etc.
- B2 1 – 4 Two changes of rights and lefts, beginning with partner.
5 – 8 Couple 1 half figure-eight up through 2s; couple 2 (after 1s pass through) 2-hand turn halfway.

We had the pleasure, several times, of hosting folk-singer Vin Garbutt, who is, indeed, a “very comical fellow” - along with being an amazing singer and song-writer. The tune for this dance came to me during one of his visits.

A VERY COMICAL FELLOW

Musical score for the piece "A Very Comical Fellow". The score is written in G minor, 2/2 time, and consists of four staves of music. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb), and the time signature is 2/2. The melody is written in treble clef. The chords are indicated above the notes.

Staff 1: Gm F Gm Gm Bb

Staff 2: Bb Cm Gm F Gm

Staff 3: Gm F Gm Dm

Staff 4: Bb Gm Cm Gm

Dances by Tom Siess
Tunes by Tom Siess and B.H. Peters
Cover photo by Jim Pfau
Composition by Ralph Canapa