

Pat Batt's Poems



THE NEW DANCE

Guess who's written a brand new dance,
With a brand new figure in it,
Not easy to learn – but worth a try,
As you'll hear, if you give me a minute.

It is, of course, a “meanwhile” dance
And sounds, perhaps, complex,
But it's quite straightforward as long as you know
Your number, your partner, and sex.

Threes and fours on the opposite side –
You'll find it better that way.
You've curtsied and bowed, so now get set
And cross your fingers and pray!

An inverted rondel is how it begins
And then the new figure you'll see
With simple instructions on sheets 1 and 2
And diagrams 1, 2 and 3.

Two highland settings, a knotted barette,
And end in the form of a square.
Crossing reels, look behind you, and with any luck
You'll find that your partner is there.

Your partner is there, but ignore him or her,
The pattern now subtly alters –
You grab someone else and all promenade round
Backwards – but only three quarters.

The Mic-Mac Rotary bit comes next,
You loop and you loop again,
A quadruple figure of eight, and then
A five-and-a-half-bar chain.

A two-and-a-half-bar turn ends the dance,
An experience no one should miss.
Wherever, whenever, whatever you've danced
You've never met something like this!

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I hope you enjoy it – I think that you will –
And I do hope you think it's alright
To give yo this preview of what he might dream
When he's having a very bad night!

(Previously published in Reel 204)

THE MICMAC ROTARY (R96) Sq.Set J Drewry Brodie Bk

Fig 1

1- 8 1s+3s set & dance "La Baratte":-

`Men 1/2 turn Lady RH & retains hand but at arm's length from each other

`Men retrace steps with Lady turning right under Man's arm briefly into Allemande hold (Man behind Lady facing Ladies original place) & releasing Ladies RH she turns under Mans left arm until almost in original places

`Couples change places LH to change places facing out

9-16 2s+4s (prom hold) Adv+Ret while 3s & 1s Promenade clockwise 3/4 way round to face out to side couples (1s face 4s & 3s face 2s), all (in prom hold) pass facing couples RSh, 1s & 3s dance back to original places while side couples dance in & round opp couple LSh & return to pl

17-32 Repeat bars 1-16 with 2s & 4s dancing "La Baratte" & Promenading round

Fig 2

1- 8 1L+2M & 3L+4M 1/2 turn RH & dance RH across 1/2 way, 1L & 3L turn their own corners RH 1.1/2 times to place

9-16 2L & 4L repeat bars 1- 8

17-24 All set to partners, petronella turn (Ladies BtoB) & set twice On second setting the Ladies turn right about to form a circle while partners dances in behind them & place hands on their hips

25-32 Ladies circle 4H round to left (small steps) with partners behind them then & all turn partners RH back to places

Fig 3

1- 8 All circle 8H round & back

9-16 Ladies dance RH across & turn partners LH 1.1/2 times to bring Men into middle

17-24 Men dance RH across & turn partners LH into prom hold facing anticlockwise

25-32 All Promenade round

... (taken from Charles Upton's Minicrib)