

1962 SANTA BARBARA FOLK DANCE CONFERENCE

Presented by C. Stewart Smith

ROBERTSONS RANT
(Scotland)

Robertsons Rant is a rather modern strathspey in square formation.

MUSIC:

FORMATION: 4 cpls in a square. Cpl no. 1 has backs to music; other cpls are numbered CW around the square.

STEPS: Strathspey Step: Step fwd on ball of R ft, keeping ft close to floor (ct 1); closing step L ft up to and behind R, L instep close to R heel (ct 2); step fwd on R bending R knee slightly and keeping ft close to floor (ct 3); hop on R bringing L ft through close to floor, knee turned out and toe pointed down (ct 4). The motion of the strathspey is down and up in feeling rather than level. Begin next step L moving fwd. Always start each pattern R.

AND

STYLING: Strathspey Setting Step: Step R to R, knee and toe turned out (ct 1); close L behind R, L instep close to R heel (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); hop on R bringing L ft up behind R ankle, L knee turned out and toe pointed down (ct 4). Begin next step swd L.

Highland Scottische Step (2 meas): Hop on L and point R toe to R side (ct 1); hop on L and bending R knee, bring R ft behind L calf, R knee turned out and toe pointing down (ct 2). Do same for cts 3 and 4 but on ct 4 put R ft in front of L leg. Dance 1 strathspey setting step R (meas.2). Begin next step hopping on R, pointing L to L side and dancing 1 strathspey setting step L.

MUSIC: 4/4

PATTERN

Measures:

Chord Introduction: M bow from waist to ptr, hands held at sides. W curtsey to ptr by taking small step R to R, placing L instep close to R heel and bending knees slightly, keeping back straight.

- I. CIRCLE
 1-4 All 4 cpls join hands at shoulder height and circle CW with 4 strathspey steps.
 5-8 Reverse and circle CCW with 4 strathspey steps.
- II. W STAR
 1-2 W form R-hand star in ctr with W no. 1 joining hands with W no. 3 on top and W no. 2 and W no. 4 joining hands underneath, arms well-extended. In this formation W dance 2 strathspey steps across to opp M.

Continued...

ROBERTSON'S RANT (cont'd)

- 3-4 W turn opp M with L hands, dancing 2 strathspey steps.
 5-6 W form R-hand star in ctr as before and dance 2 strathspey steps back to ptr.
 7-8 Ptrs turn with L hands joined, dancing 2 strathspey steps and finishing with W on MR.
- III. REEL OF FOUR--HEAD CPLS
 1-8 Cpls no. 1 and no. 3 dance a reel of four with 8 strathspey steps. W start passing L shoulders in the ctr and then R shoulders with opp M, turn 1/2CW and pass R shoulders with ptr, pass L shoulders again in the ctr with opp W and then veer to the L to pass R shoulders with opp M and turn 1/2CW to finish in original pos. M stand in place for 1st 2 meas and then dance in twd ctr on 3rd meas passing R shoulders with opp W and L shoulders in ctr with opp M, veer to the L to pass R shoulders with ptr, turn 1/2CW and pass R shoulders with opp W, L shoulders again in ctr with opp M, returning to original pos.
- IV. SET AND TURN CORNERS
 1-4 Face corner and set with Highland Scottische step R and L. W hands are held loosely at sides. M raises L arm at side slightly above head level and R hand on hip when dancing Highland Scottische step R. When dancing that step L, M hands are reversed
 5-8 Join both hands with corner and turn twice CW with 4 strathspey steps.
- V. REEL OF FOUR--SIDE CPLS
 1-8 Cps no. 2 and no. 4 repeat action of Fig III.
- VI. SET AND TURN CORNERS
 1-8 Repeat action of Fig IV.
- VII. W CIRCLE, SET AND TURN PTR
 1-4 W join hands in ctr at shoulder height and circle CW once around with 4 strathspey steps. On last strathspey step release hands and turn CCW to finish facing ptr with backs to ctr of circle.
 5-6 Set to ptr with strathspey setting step R and L, hands at sides.
 7-8 Join both hands with ptr and turn once CW with 2 strathspey steps.
- VIII. M CIRCLE, SET AND TURN PTR
 1-8 M repeat action of Fig VII.
- IX. GRAND CHAIN
 1-8 All face ptr and dance Grand R and L once around with 8 strathspey steps, passing ptr on opp side and continuing on to finish in original place. Pass one person for each strathspey step.
- X. PROMENADE
 1-8 Take Varsouvienne pos (with shaking hand-hold so that W L hand is on bottom and W R hand on outside) and promenade once CCW around the square with 8 strathspey steps.
- Chord. M bow, W curtsey to ptr as in Introduction.