

# Blue Sky, Yellow Sun

A 32 bar strathspey for four couples in a longwise set. The 1st and 3rd couples start on opposite sides.

This dance was written the Saturday after the invasion of Ukraine. In London the weather was fine. I went out walking but kept thinking of those suffering far away. The combination of the yellow sun in a pale blue sky reminded me of the Ukrainian flag which gave me the title.

Later, Wouter Joubert kindly offered his tune "And when it rains..." which he has dedicated "in support of peace and to all those who are bullied by tyrants".

## *Bars Description*

- 1-8 1st with 2nd and 3rd with 4th couples dance right hands across, then left hands back. 2nd and 3rd couples end with the two men facing each other in the centre and the women facing out on the sides.
- 9-16 2nd and 3rd couples dance a reel of four across the set. 2nd and 3rd men start by passing each other left shoulder as 2nd and 3rd women curve to their right. On the last 2 bars the two women dance three quarters round each other left shoulder and up or down the centre as their partners curve up or down into the centre. Both couples end in promenade hold on the centre line, 2nd couple facing up in 2nd place, 3rd couple facing down in 3rd place.
- 17-20 2nd couple in promenade hold dance half a right shoulder reel of three across with 1st couple as 3rd couple dance similarly with 4th couple. 2nd couple end facing down, 3rd couple facing up on the sides.
- 21-24 2nd couple dance half a left shoulder reel of three on the women's side as 3rd couple dance half a left shoulder reel on the men's side. Both couples end on the sides and release hands.
- 25-28 2nd and 3rd couples dance half a Men's Chain with the women casting into their loop on the side.
- 29-32 4th with 2nd and 3rd with 1st couples join hands on the side and set advancing to the centre. They then each circle four hands half way round to the left. The final order is 2, 4, 1, 3 with 2nd and 1st couples on opposite sides.

## Music

- Tune: And when it rains... (Wouter Joubert).
- A recording of this is available via <https://my.strathspey.org/u/murrough/recording/>
- For testing I used Set of (4x32) Strathspeys from Terpsichore by Caledonian Muse.)

**Diagrams (music at the bottom)**

Bar 9	Bar 15	Bar 17	Bar 25	Bar 29	End
<p>♫</p>	<p>♫</p>	<p>♫</p>	<p>♫</p>	<p>♫</p>	<p>♫</p>