

Simone's Serendipitous Meeting

A 32 bar jig for 3 couples in a 4 couple longwise set.

Simone, who is originally from Belgium, met her future husband there for a month and then corresponded for four years before joining him in London. Despite thinking she knew everything about him she had unfortunately neglected to ask Ron if he shared her passion for dancing and was very upset to find he did not.

One day in church she poured out her disappointment to the complete stranger who happened to be sitting next to her. This kind lady recommended she try Scottish Country Dancing where she could come without a partner. Simone was immediately hooked and was subsequently taught and examined as a qualified RSCDS teacher by the redoubtable founder of the RSCDS, Miss Milligan, who praised her for "teaching so well in a foreign language". Fifty years later Simone still teaches weekly at the Epping Forest Scottish Association.

The first eight bars reflect this story then the remainder of the dance is quite traditional.

Bars

1-2 1st woman sets to 1st man who smiles beatifically but does not set back.

3-4 Disheartened, 1st woman turns and sets to 2nd woman who does set back.

5-8 2nd woman then takes 1st woman in promenade hold for half a figure of 8 on the side giving left shoulder to 3rd woman. 3rd woman steps up to 2nd place on bars 5-6 and then steps down again to 3rd place on bars 7-8 to let them round.

2nd woman ends by leading 1st woman ahead left hand (launching her into her Scottish Country Dancing career) so that both are back in original places with 1st woman facing in while 2nd woman is facing up and out. 2nd man also turns to face up and out while 1st man is now released from his impersonation of Simone's non-dancing husband and joins in for the rest of the dance.

9-16 All three couples dance Inveran reels.

17-24 1st and 2nd couples dance double figures of 8 starting with 1st couple crossing down and 2nd couple casting up.

25-28 1st couple half turn 2nd couple with the easy hand (right on the mens side, left on the womens side) and then half turn 3rd couple with the other hand.

29-30 1st couple dance up to the top with nearer hands joined as 3rd couple loop back into 3rd place.

31-32 1st couple cast into 2nd place ending in the order 213.

Simone: today, with her late husband Ron, and in her youth



Music:

The music for "The Happy Meeting" seems very suitable for this dance too.