CHORUS JIG (American Contra Dance)

Record: Folk Dancer MH 1027

Formation: Longways Set (Men on one side, women on other) 1 - 3 - 5 etc. active.

Do not cross-over.

Down the outside and back. Down the center with partner and back. Cast off and turn contra corners. Balance partner. Swing partner.

(Contra corners are on either side of one's partner. To turn contra corners advance toward own partner and touch right hands, proceed to person who is on the left of partner's position and turn once around with left hands joined. Return to partner with right hand, turn once and then to remaining corner with left hand around. Return to place)

CHRIST CHURCH BELLS

(English)

Record: Methodist 109

Formation: Double circle of couples, numbered 1 and 2, in sets of two, one couple facing clockwise, one counter-clockwise, all men in the inside circle, women in outside. (Longways formation has men in left hand file, women in right as they face the head. Face partners and number couples 1 and 2 alternately.) Further details in "English Country Dances of Today."

Action 1.

Man #1 turns girl #2 with right hand 8 counts, then his partner with his left. Man #2 turns girl #1 with left hand then his partner with his right.

Action 2.

All join hands and circle, 8 counts, clockwise.

Action 3.

All clap own hands, then right hand on partner's right; own hands, then left hand on partner's left (in 4 counts).

Action 4.

First couple turns outward away from each other and pass outside the 2nd couple, into the second couple's place, while at the same time the 2nd couple moves up to the first couple's place, each meeting a new couple. (If done in longways formation, when a couple reaches head or foot of the hall they turn around, wait one turn, then work their way back down or up the set in the other direction.)

Christ Church Bells is one of the oldest of all of the English dances. It appears in the Playford collections, published in the late 17th century.

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