

# ***BIG CIRCLE MOUNTAIN DANCE***

## ***(United States)***

Big Circle Mountain Square Dancing and Clogging have been danced for a few centuries in Western North Carolina, Virginia, and areas around the Great Smokey Mountains. Over the years, many figures and sequences have evolved. The caller decides and announces which figures are danced and for how long. A small sample of figures follows below.

**Music:** Folkraft LP 36, "Big Circle Mountain Dance Music", or most instrumental music suitable for Square Dancing.

**Meter:** 2/4

**Formation:** Eight or more couples in a big circle, Woman on Right of Man, or number the partners 1 & 2. With young children, couple dances often run much more smoothly if the students can choose their own partner. Thus, boys may dance with boys and girls with girls.

### **Pattern**

**Opening** - Bow to your partner; bow to your corner (on your other side).

**Circle up and Circle Left** - All join hands and walk or skip Clockwise.

**Circle Right** - All join hands and walk or skip Counterclockwise.

**To the Center (All, or Numbers 1 or Numbers 2)** - 4 steps forward into the center, yell "Hey" on Count 4 raising 1 arm; and 4 steps backward back to place.

**Swing** - Instead of assuming ballroom position, for young children it works better if partners hold both hands and skip around.

**Promenade** - In skaters position (arms crossed in front of body, Right hand in Right hand, Left hand in Left hand), walk Counterclockwise.

**London Bridge** - From a promenade, Lead couple forms an arch with both arms raised. Each couple goes through and forms an arch next to the previous couple. When Lead couple is at the end of the line, they duck through the arches until they reach the head, then promenade, or form a single file.

**Wind the Yarn** - From a circle or single file, the leader winds the line to the center of the circle and out again, making sure to turn facing center after exiting the "ball of yarn". Everyone should travel the exact same path as the line leader, always walking forward, and never releasing hands.

Dance notes by Thea Huijgen

Dance presented by Thea Huijgen at the Seattle Folkdance Festival March 1998.