

BIG CIRCLE MOUNTAIN SQUARE DANCING AND CLOGGING

CWG

By Jeff O'Connor

Big Circle Mountain Square Dancing and Clogging has been danced for hundreds of years in western North Carolina, Virginia, and areas around the Great Smokey Mountains. The figures and sequences were presented by Evelyn and Glenn Bannerman at the 1972 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp, and again in 1973.

MUSIC: Records: Folkraft LP 36, "Big Circle Mountain Dance Music"
Sunny Hills AC-112, "Boil Them Cabbage Down"
Black Mountain 45-4552, "Boil Them Cabbage Down"
Black Mountain 45-4555, "Cumberland Gap"
RCA 447-0569, "Down Yonder"
Jewel J1538, "It's Going to Take a Little Longer"

FORMATION: Big Circle - - Eight or more cpls in a big circle, working in sets of two cpls, designated odd and even. Caller designates odd and even cpls and calls figures. Caller will also designate Lead cpl.

STEPS AND Smooth walking shuffle.

STYLING: Clogging: Basic Step - - Shuffle with R ft (ct &, ah), drop onto R ft, bending knee slightly (ct 1), straighten R knee sharply, letting ft slide bkwd slightly (chug) (ct &). At the same time, the L ft does a shuffle on cts &, ah. Drop onto L ft, bending knee slightly (ct 2). Straighten L knee sharply (ct &). The basic Clogging step can be done with embellishments according to the desire and skill of the dancer. It is done individually during Big Circle Dancing at appropriate times. For example, Circle Left and Right would be "smooth". Ladies (Gents) to the Center would be Clogging. Queen's (King's) Highway would be smooth when moving with partner, and Clogging when moving individually. The arms swing freely at the sides; keep body loose.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

INTRODUCTION None. The caller will start with the musical phrase.

I. OPENING - BIG CIRCLE FIGURES

As required Select from the following any number of figures, depending on number of dancers and amount of music, allowing also for Parts II and III.

Circle Left - All join hands, W to MR, circle CW.

Circle Right - All join hands, W to MR, circle CCW.

Single File - W in lead moving CCW (no hands).

Grand Right and Left - M move CCW, W move CW.

Swing - Ballroom pos, R hips adjacent, walk fwd around each other.

Promenade - Varsouvienne pos, walk CCW.

BIG CIRCLE MOUNTAIN SQUARE DANCING AND CLOGGING (continued)

Queen's Highway - From a promenade, Lead W turn R outside circle and dance in opp direction, each successive W falling in behind. When Lead W meets her ptr, she turns (R) back into promenade pos. Each successive W follows.

King's Highway - From a promenade, Lead M turn R out behind his ptr to dance in opp direction around circle, each successive M falling in behind. Lead M step in behind his ptr when he completes the circle and then continue promenade. King's Highway may be started by Lead M following W in front of him on Queen's Highway.

London Bridge - From a promenade, Lead cpl reverse direction, M holding WR with his L, forming an arch over head of other dancers. Each cpl through the arch reverses direction to follow preceding cpl. When Lead cpl reaches end of line, they duck through arches until they reach the head, then promenade.

Roll the Ladies In - From over-the-shoulder promenade pos, keeping hands joined, W roll across in front of ptr turning L to end on inside.

Roll the Ladies Out - W roll across turning R to end on ptr R.

Shoo Fly Swing - Lead cpl move inside the circle and swing with R hand around. Lead W leaves her ptr and turns her corner with L hand around, returns to ptr with R hand around and continues L to next M and then R to ptr. When Lead cpl reaches fourth cpl, the 2nd M takes his ptr and begins the R and L reel. Each cpl continue figure until they are back at home. Note: While in the middle of the circle, M turns no other W but his ptr.

Basket - W drop hands with M, move twd ctr of circle, join hands and circle L. M join hands and circle R. Reverse circles, M going L and WR. M step to ptr L, raise joined hands over W heads and in front of W waists. Circle continues to move L. M raise hands over W heads and back to place while W raise joined hands over M heads and behind their backs. Circle continues to move L. Break and swing your ptr.

II. BODY - SMALL CIRCLE FIGURES

As
required

Compose the body of the dance from the following figures. Use the first figure to move odd cpls on between figures for mixing.

Odd Couple Out to the Even Couple -

Single circle of cpls, designated odd and even before dance begins. Odd cpls move out to even cpls on R, join hands and circle L. Reverse circle.

"Odd couple out to the even couple,
Circle L, now the other way back."

Right Hands Across -

M join R hands, W join R hands, and all walk fwd. Reverse direction, joining L hands.

"Right hands across and howdy do, Back with the L and how are you?"

BIG CIRCLE MOUNTAIN SQUARE DANCING AND CLOGGING (continued)

Duck for the Oyster -

Hands joined with even cpl, odd cpl duck under arch formed by the even cpl and back to place. Even cpl duck under arch formed by odd cpl and back to place. Odd cpl duck under arch again, odd M drop R hand and go L, odd W to R, pulling even cpl through under their own arms. Circle L once around, swing opp W, then swing ptr.

*"Duck for the oyster, dive for the clam,
Duck right through and roll it around,
Circle L, once around,
Swing your opp lady,
Swing your own."*

Take a Little Peek -

Circle L, circle R. Odd cpl separate, peek at each other around the even cpl. Return to place and swing ptr. Separate and peek once more, back to place, and both cpls swing ptrs.

*"Circle to the L, circle to the R,
'Round that cpl and take a little peek,
Back to the ctr and swing your sweet,
'Round that cpl and peek once more,
Back to the ctr and swing all four."*

Birdie in the Cage -

Circle L, circle R. Odd W move into ctr of circle, six hands joined around her, circling L. Odd W moves back into her pos in the circle, while odd M (crow) moves to ctr of circle. M move out to pos and all circle L.

*"Circle to the L, and back to the R. Birdie in the cage, six hands around.
Birdie hop out, crow hop in,
Six hands up and you'r gone again.
Crow hops out and hops on a limb,
Circle to the L, you're gone again."*

Four Leaf Clover -

Circle L, circle R. Even cpl make an arch. Odd cpl duck under arch and turn away from each other, passing their joined hands over their own heads, forming the clover leaf. Odd cpl arch, even cpl duck under, and all circle L. Swing the opp lady, then swing your ptr.

*"Circle L and back to the R,
Odd, duck right under for a four leaf clover and turn on over.
Odd arch and even go under,
Circle L.
Swing your opp lady,
Now swing your own."*

Chase that Rabbit -

Circle L, circle R. Odd W lead out, in between the even cpl, around and behind the even W, back between the even cpl, around and behind even M, odd M following all the way. Then odd M lead out, following the same pattern with odd W chasing behind. Circle L, swing the opp, swing your ptr.

*"Circle to the L, now back to the R.
Chase that rabbit, chase that squirrel, Chase that pretty girl around the world.
Chase that 'possum, chase that 'coon, Chase that big boy 'round the room. Circle to the L,
Swing your opp, then swing your own."*

BIG CIRCLE MOUNTAIN SQUARE DANCING AND CLOGGING (continued)Basket -

Circle L, circle R. M reach across joining hands. W join hands under gents. M raise hands over the W head, and W raise hands over the M head, forming a basket with hands joined at waist level. Circle continues to move L throughout figure. Break and swing your opp, swing ptr.

*"Circle to the L and back to the R,
Eight hands across,
Ladies bow, gents know how.
Circle L,
Break and swing your opp,
Now swing your own."*

Ladies Chain -

Circle L, circle R. W move to the ctr, joining R hands and passing by. W join L hands with the opp M, who places his R hand in the small of her back and moving fwd turns her around to place. W chain back, turning to place in the same manner with ptr. Swing the opp W, swing your ptr.

*"Circle L and back to place,
Two ladies chain,
Chain them over and chain them back,
Swing your opp,
Swing your own."*

Georgia Rang Tang -

Circle L, circle R. At home pos turn opp with R hand all the way around. Turn ptr with L hand. Repeat turn with opp and turn with ptr. Swing opp, swing ptr.

*"Circle L, circle R.
Georgia Rang Tang.
Swing your opp,
Swing your own."*

III. CLOSING - BIG CIRCLE FIGURES

As
required

Select from Part I suitable figures for Closing.

TYPICAL BIG CIRCLE DANCEOpening or Big Circle Figures

Circle L, Circle R
Single File
Grand Right and Left
Swing, Promenade
Queen's Highway
King's Highway
Circle L, Circle R

Body, Small Circle Figures

Odd Couple Out to the Even Cpl
Birdie in the Cage
Odd Couple On to the Next
Birdie in the Cage

Closing, Big Circle Figures

Promenade
Circle L, Circle R
Basket
Swing, Promenade
London Bridge
Promenade
Swing