

Burns Night

A 32-bar Jig for 2 couples in a 4-couple set

by Robert McOwen

Bars

- 1 – 4 1st man and 2nd woman change places with the right hand, then 1st woman and 2nd man change places with the right hand.
- 5 – 8 2nd and 1st couples set and link.
- 9 – 16 Repeat bars 1 – 8: i.e., 1st woman and 2nd man change places with the right hand, then 1st man and 2nd woman change places with the right hand; then set and link, finishing in original positions.
- 17 – 18 1st and 2nd couples turn with right hands half way to finish in the middle, retaining right hands and joining left hands below right hands.
- 19 – 22 1st and 2nd couples slip down the middle for four steps, then slip back to the top.
- 23 – 24 Using two pas de basque, both couples change places with partner, retaining joined hands but lifting right hands over the woman's head to finish in allemande hold facing the top of the set.
- 25 – 32 1st and 2nd couples allemande.

Repeat having passed a couple.

Note: To begin the allemande, incorporate the arm movement with the preceding pas de basque on bar 24, naturally assisting the woman to open to the top of the set. (The woman makes a three-quarter rotation of the body to the man's one-quarter rotation during bars 23 – 24.)

Robert McOwen has taught Scottish Country Dance workshops throughout North America and in Japan. He is a Highland dancer and choreographer and has produced a number of Branch concerts. He devised this dance to go with the tune by Barbara McOwen. Dance and tune commemorate the series of Burns Night concerts initiated by Robert J. Lurtsema and produced by the Boston Branch at Sanders Theater in Cambridge, Massachusetts, from 1979 to 1994. Featuring stellar performers such as Jean Redpath and Alasdair Fraser, these concerts brought the organizational and creative juices of the Boston Branch to great heights.