

## KERRY REEL

Irish dance for three people  
Record Folk Dancer MH 1072  
(Tune Walls of Limerick)

COR. CHIARRAIGHE  
(Kerry Reel)

Dance introduced at Maine Folk Dance Camp by Madelynne Greene who learned it from noted authority on Irish dancing in Cork Ireland, Maureen Hall.

FORMATION: Threes facing audience, Man in between two women. Hands are joined above shoulder height. Free hands at sides palms backwards.

STEPS: "Sevens" and "Threes"

"SEVENS" TO LEFT: Begin with weight on Lft.

Swing Rft around behind Lft and step on it (ct.1)

Step on Lft (ct.2)

Step on Rft behind Lft (ct.3)

Step on Lft (ct.4)

Step on Rft behind Lft (ct.5)

Step on Lft (ct.6)

Step on Rft behind L (ct.7.)

"SEVENS" TO RIGHT: Begin with weight on Lft.

Swing Lft around behind Rft and step on it (ct.1)

Step on Rft (ct.2)...continue L,R,L,R,etc. for 7 counts.

THREES...are danced like a small pas-de-bas step with a tiny leap on the 1st ct. Thus: Leap onto R (toes turned out), ct.1. Cross L over R and step on L, ct.2. Step again on R, ct.3. Repeat same to L starting with Lft. When traveling fwd on "Threes" leap fwd on R, bring L in front for ct.2 and draw R up to L for Ct.3. Toes are always turned outward. Knees are always relaxed on accing cts, so the dancer sinks into the accenting step.

ARMS AND STYLING: When not holding hands with another dancer, arms are held quietly at the sides, inside edge of wrist close to body, palm facing back. Arms should be relaxed but controlled and should not separate from the body. When hands are held they should be lifted so arms form almost a straight line from shoulder to elbow. No wrist hold in star figure. A tall, straight good posture is important at all times. Dancers keep dancing threes in place whenever wait in place for next step. Do not stand still while waiting.

THE DANCE PATTERN - Music 2/4

### FIGURE 1 LEAD OUT

- Meas. 1-4 All dance fwd (downstage) towards audience 4 "threes" R,L,R,L.  
5-6 W make complete turn (inward) under joined hands with M, dancing 2 "threes" on the spot as M dances in place.  
7-8 W change places with 2 "threes", Rhand W goes under arch, M follows her as Lhand W goes over, and all finish facing opposite direction. (backs to audience).  
9-16 Repeat all now dancing to the audience and return to original places, this time the Lhand W goes under and Rhand W goes over.

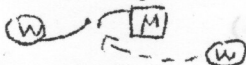
PLEASE TURN PAGE FOR REST OF DANCE

**FIGURE 2 SOLO SEVENS IN A LINE**

All drop hands and dance "sevens" to L starting with Rft.  
 Do the same to the R starting with Lft.  
 All make a  $\frac{1}{2}$  turn to R and dance "sevens" to L and R.  
 Make a  $\frac{1}{2}$  turn to R and dance "sevens" to L and R ( backs to audience)  
 Make a  $\frac{1}{2}$  turn to R and dance "sevens" to L and R  
 Make a  $\frac{1}{2}$  turn to R and finish facing audience.

**FIGURE 3 TURN R AND L HAND WOMEN**

M turns Rhand W with R hand with 4 "threes", then turns Lhand W with L hand with 4 "threes", and immediately goes to the Rhand lady so that dancers now are in this position:



**FIGURE 4 ARCHES** -dance with "threes throughtout this figure.

1-8

Lhand W dances under arch with 2 "threes" then turns to R in place with 2 "threes" AS AT THE SAME TIME, the M holding Rhand lady's R hand: with his R hand, dance two "threes" in place, then change places with each other with two "threes" drawing elbows close together and apart.

Repeat this again with same W going under and the couple changing places to finish with M facing Lhand Women with whome he joins RIGHT HAND ( same hand as before ). Repeat the entire figure with Rhand W going under arch this time.

Be sure Man retains R hand hold with W in preparation for next figure.

**FIGURE 5 STAR**

Rhand W now joins the other two with a Rhand hold and all three dance clockwise around 4 "threes" make sure you make a full turn. Man dances 4 "threes" in place as ladies now join two hands across with each other and dance clockwise in front of man all the way around with 4 "threes".

Repeat with a Lhand Star moving counterclockwise, then ladies join two hands across and turn counterclockwise with 4 "threes" and IMPORTANT, drop hands and separate into the following position: (Women's Lshoulder to audience, Man's R shoulder to audience)

**FIGURE 6 SOLO SEVENS AND CIRCLE RIGHT**

All dance "sevens" to L and do 2 "threes on the spot turning to face center of own three people...join Hands to form a ring ....

Man's back will be to the audience at this point.

And all move to the R, CCW, with "sevens", half way around, and separate into the same position as diagram above, but the girls are now in exchanged places. Use 2 "threes" to get there,

Repeat the entire figure exactly the same way and at the end all will be in starting position of this figure.

DANGER SPOT...Girls will have to remember which way to face when they are in exchanged positions..the man will always face the same way... i.e., man with R shoulder to audience, W with L shoulder to audience.



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FIGURE 7: The previous figure finishes with the man's back to audience and the two women facing the audience..man is in middle in a triangle position:



All dance forward with 2 "threes" then turn  $\frac{1}{2}$  to R on the spot with 2 more "threes" and return to same starting place with 2 more "Threes". Turn with 2 "threes" half way round.

FIGURE 8. FIGURE EIGHT FOR MAN

W dance "threes" in place as Man moves forward, away from audience, passing around the Lhand lady (now standing to his R) passing by the L shoulder, then in between the two women, then around Rhand Lady passing by R shoulder and finish in center between 2 women all facing audience.

Repeat Figure I for ending of dance.

On this recording, there is extra music...to use for an exit if you are performing the dance, or for an entrance too...or else just lift needle at end of twice through the entire dance.



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P O Box 201 Flushing LI NY  
11352  
Michael Herman, Director