

JOY FOR TWO (Siamse Beirte) (Ireland)

TWO HAND FROLIC



Most Irish dances are group dances. However, this couple dance has swept the country ever since it was introduced in the United States. The dance is an easy one if you use the techniques suggested in the directions below.

THE IRISH FLAVOR is provided in this manner: After the two schottische steps in the opening part of the dance (below), substitute "reel" steps for the step-hops in place. The "reel" step is done by placing one foot behind the other and chugging forward on it.

Substitute a "hornpipe" step for the three steps in place on tiptoes. A "hornpipe" step in its simplest form is done as follows:

Stand on tiptoes with one foot crossed in front of the other.

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Sink down on heel of front foot for count 1, as back heel is raised off floor.

Sink down on heel of back foot for count two, as front heel is raised.

Sink down on heel of front foot for count 3, as back heel is raised off floor.

Note that toes stay on floor throughout the "hornpipe" step.

THE DANCE:

OPENING FORMATION: Couples arranged in a circle, partners facing and man's back to center. Right hands are joined, free hands dangle at the side.

PART 1: Man moves to his left, lady to her

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right, with one sideward schottische step. Then move to the man's right (the lady's left) with another schottische step.

Take two step-hops in place. Man does left hop, right hop; lady does right hop, left hop. Do the hornpipe step in place. Man starts with right foot crossed in front. Lady starts with left foot crossed in front.

Repeat all of above in opposite direction. The man now starts to his right, the lady to her left. Naturally, the hornpipe step will be done with the man's left foot crossed in front and the lady's right foot crossed in front.

The cue for teaching the dance would be:

Side, 2, 3, hop; side, 2, 3, hop; step-hop, step-hop; wobble, wobble, wobble (2 times).

PART 2: Man moves to his left, lady to her right, with one sideward schottische step (1, 2, 3, hop). Changing places with her partner, the lady then makes a counterclockwise turn under the joined right hands as

dancers move over. The man uses his right hand to help her make the turn by turning it counterclockwise over the lady's head.

The changeover is done with one schottische step (1, 2, 3, hop). Partners are now facing each other again, but this time lady has her back to center of the circle. Repeat the sideward schottische step (1, 2, 3, hop) with the man moving to left, the lady to right, and change places again with another schottische step (1, 2, 3, hop), turning as before. This brings partners back to original places.

PART 3: Partners are holding right hands. They now join left hands under right hands with the man extending his elbow sideways so that the lady may rest her arms on his. This is called a "wrap-around." In this position partners dance around the circle with a schottische step, the man beginning on his left foot and the lady on her right. They turn around clockwise, but move counterclockwise around the circle. Four schottische steps are taken during the "wrap-around."

