

SIAMSA BEIRTE
(Ireland)

(Two-Hand Frolic)

Siamsa Beirte (SHEEM-suh Berte), is an Irish couple dance in Hornpipe time. This dance was introduced at the College of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp by Sean and Una O'Farrell.

MUSIC: Record: "Blusball Polka", Parlophone MIP 305. Any good hornpipe.

FORMATION: Partners face with R hands joined at shoulder height, elbows bent and down, M with back to ctr of circle. Free hand hangs at side.

STEPS AND Threes, rock, promenade. A complete description with measure

STYLING: and count is given in a new volume of Definitions, Steps and Styling to be published by the Folk Dance Federation of California.

The steps are described for the M, the W does the counterpart.

NOTE: The step pattern for Siamsa Beirte begins on the 4th ct. and each meas. description includes the 4th ct. of the preceding meas.

MUSIC: Slow 4/4 Hornpipe PATTERN

Measures INTRODUCTION: No music for introduction.

I. THREES, ROCK

- 1 a) Moving to M's L, M HOP on R in place (ct. 4). Step to L on L (ct 1), step on R behind L on L (ct 3).
- 2 Repeat meas 1, Fig. I using opp ft and moving in opp direction.
- b) NOTE: This step is done in one place and is very quick and subtle. DO NOT MOVE AWAY FROM PARTNER. One ft replaces the other on the hop. On the rock the the wt is transferred from the ball of one ft to the ball of the other.
- 3-4 Hop on R ft in place (ct 4), bringing L behind R, then step on L (ct 1), now hop on L (ct 4), bring R behind L and step on R (ct 3), hop on R (ct 4), bring L behind R and ROCK L R L (ct 1, 2, 3).
- 5-8 Repeat action of Fig I (a), (b), meas 1-2, 3-4. Beginning M's L, W's R, and moving in reverse LOD.

Continued...

II. CHANGE PLACES, PROMENADE

- 9-10 a) Repeat action of Fig I (a), mess 1. Then M and U change places using 1 three: hop, step, step, step. M makes half turn CW, W moves CCW into M's place, turning under R hands which are still joined. W also does 1 three step.

- 11-12 Repeat action of Fig II, mess 9-10, moving against LOD and changing places so M is again on the inside of the circle.

- b) Both hands joined with partner--R joined over, L joined under. Do a continuous turn CW, Moving CCW with 4

Promenade steps: Hop, step, step, step.

NOTE: On the Promenade (swing), partners are close, elbows bent and horizontal to the floor, (forearms upright).

Variation on hand hold for promenade (swing): M rolls joined R hand toward him and under their joined L hands to finish with R hands near W, L hands near M, arms resting on M arms with elbows held out horizontally.