

TONNAÍ THORAIGH—THE WAVES OF TORY

The "waves" in this dance are meant to represent the waves so frequently seen around the island of Tory off the north coast of Donegal. Tonnaí Thoraigh is a Long Dance in Reel Time for any even number of couples. The dance is progressive and the couples are in sets of four.

Formation: O O O O O O
 X X X X X X
 1 2 3 4 5 6

A. Ar Aghaidh is Ar gCúl. Advance and Retire.

The two lines advance towards each other with Promenade Step [2 bars] and retire to place [2 bars]. This movement is then repeated [4 bars]. 8 bars

B. Deasógai is Ciotógai Trasna. Right and Left Hands Across.

Each set of four dancers give right hand across in the centre, shoulder high, and dance around clockwise. On the last "three," they release hands and turn in [4 bars]. They now give left hands across and wheel around anticlockwise, to finish in lines again [4 bars]. 8 bars

C. Ar Aghaidh is Ar gCúl. Advance and Retire.

The same as A above. 8 bars

D. Ciotógai is Deasógai Trasna. Left and Right Hands Across.

The same as B above, but all commence by giving left hands across, and go round anticlockwise. 8 bars

E. Thart Ar Dheis agus Suas i Lár. Lead off to the Right and up the Centre.

(This movement and the following movements are usually done to march time music.)

All couples turn to gents' left and take inside hands. Couple 1 lead off to the right and down to the bottom

of the set followed by the other couples. Couple 1 turn right again and lead up the centre to place, the other couples following.

F. Na Tonnaí. The Waves.

Couple 1 release hands, turn in to each other and then face down the hall, take inside hands and raise them to form an arch and promenade towards couple 2 who pass under the arch made by Couple 1 to the top of the set and turn about. Couple 1 now exchange places with Couple 3 in the same manner except that Couple 3 make the arch and Couple 1 pass under. Couple 1 continue in the same manner down to the bottom of the set, making arches and passing under alternately.

Couple 2 and each succeeding couple in turn, on reaching the top of the set, turn about, face down the hall, form an arch, and repeat the movement down the set as described for Couple 1.

When Couple 1 reach the bottom of the set, they turn about, pass under the arch of Couple 2 and continue up the set in the same manner, making arches and passing under, until they reach their original places. Each succeeding couple on arriving at the bottom of the set proceed up to place again in the same manner as described for Couple 1.

As each couple reach their places they stand idle until all have concluded the "Tonnaí," having faced their partners in lines.

G. Síos Ar Gach Taobh. Cast Off.

Couple 1 release hands. Cast off (lady to the right and gent to the left), and march down the set followed by the other dancers who have marched to Couple 1's position and cast off in the same manner.

When they reach the bottom, Couples 1 and 2 take both hands uncrossed and raise them to form an arch. Couple 3 take inside hands and pass under the arch and up to the top of the set, followed by the other dancers. When all have passed under, they form again into two lines, partners facing each other, but Couples 1 and 2 remaining at the bottom of the set.

The dance is repeated with Couple 3 now leading.