

IRISH DANCES

TONNTRACHA TORRAI

WAVES OF TORY

(Tune: "Galway Piper")

The people on the island of Tory developed this dance, presumably to represent the waves of the ocean. Old time fiddlers may know the tune as "Rakes of Mallow."

Formation:

Longways set of couples, men opposite partners, six feet apart. As couples face the head of the hall, ladies are at the right of men. Couples are paired into sets of two couples numbered 1-2, 1-2, all down the line.

Action:

1. *The Waves*: Men join hands in their line, ladies likewise; the two lines walk* toward each other 3 steps, pause, raising** joined hands high as they move forward; they walk backward to place with 4 steps, lowering joined hands. Repeat.
2. *Whirlpools*: Drop hands. The lines quickly come together again, and each man 1 gives right hand across to lady 2; each man 2 gives right hand to lady 1 to form a right-hand star. They walk around in star formation 8 steps, then shift to left hands across and walk around 8 steps back in a left-hand star, ending in line in original place.
3. Repeat *Waves* as in 1.
4. Repeat *Whirlpools*, this time starting with a left-hand star and returning with a right-hand star to place.
5. *Waves sweep out to sea*: All face head of the set. Lady takes right arm of the man who is her partner, and the head couple turns sharply to the right, promenading down beside the ladies' line toward the foot of the set, all couples following. Head couple returns to original place, the others following, making a sharp right turn again before heading up the set. (See Fig. 123.)
6. *Whitecaps*: Couples do an under and over figure down and up the lines, returning to original positions. All couples begin at same time, couples 1 moving down the set, couples 2 moving up the set; couple 1 begin going under the arch. (See Figs. 123 and 124.)

* Sometimes a promenade step is used in Irish dancing: It is a two-step done with a leap on the first count (leap on left foot, step with right foot, step with left foot, leap on right foot, step with left foot, step with right foot, etc.).

** Authentic Irish tradition, by certain authorities, requires dancers to hold hands in line, shoulder height, elbows bent, preventing their being raised on the waves!

7. *Waves of Tory*: The head couple casts off, followed by the ladies down the ladies' side and the men down the men's side. (See Fig. 76.) At the foot, the head couple makes a double arch by joining both hands and raising them high. All the other couples go through the arch and return to place in the line. The second couple now becomes the head couple, and the original head couple remains at the foot of the set.

Repeat as often as desired.

Summary:

1. Forward-2-3-swish, Back-2-3-4, Forward-2-3-swish, Back-2-3-4.
2. Right-2-3-4-5-6-7-8, Left-2-3-4-5-6-7-8.
3. Forward-2-3-swish, Back-2-3-4, Forward-2-3-swish, Back-2-3-4.
4. Left-2-3-4-5-6-7-8, Right-2-3-4-5-6-7-8.
5. Couples cast off right and promenade the set.
6. Under and over.
7. Lines cast off; make an arch; return to place.

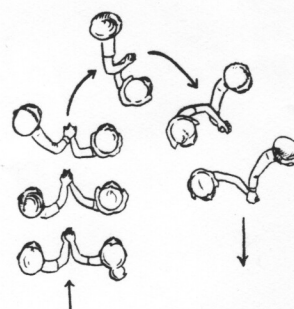


Figure 123

Leader's note:

While six or eight couples are usually used, "Waves of Tory" may be enjoyed where there are long lines of couples. Six seems best.

Since the head couple stays at the foot, the right-hand and left-hand stars change because each couple has moved one position toward the head. If "Waves of Tory" is repeated, the group should check their stars to see who will be in each newly formed pair of couples.



Figure 124