

Ceilidh dance list

1. Canadian barn dance

Round the Room dance couples facing anticlockwise (Ladies on partners right)

1- 4 Starting with outside foot walk forward for three steps and hop, walk backwards for three steps and hop

5- 8 Skip sideways away from partner (men towards the centre, ladies outwards) for two steps and clap, Return to partner in waltz hold.

9-12 Skip sideways to the man's left for two steps and back

13-16 Polka anti-clockwise round the room

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSEBdX4d0QM#t=83>

2. Cumberland Square 8

Formation: four couples arranged around a square, lady on the right of the man. Couple with their backs to the music are couple number 1, couple on their left number 2, couple opposite number 3 and couple on the right number 4 (ie numbering clockwise).

Music: This is normally danced to tunes in common time (32 bar and the dance is 64 bars long) but can be and is sometimes done to jigs (6/8 tempo).

Bars: Description

1-8: End couples (1 and 3) take ballroom (waltz) hold and dance across the set, men passing back to back, then dance back again, ladies passing back to back.

9-16: Side couples (2 and 4) repeat.

17-24: End couples dance right hands across in a star (wheel), then left hands back again.

25-32: Side couples (2 and 4) repeat.

33-40: End couples dance the basket: make a small circle in the middle, men joining hands behind ladies' backs, ladies' arms on top of men's. In this formation, circle round to the left. With sufficient speed, the ladies' feet can lift off the floor (there's a good video of it on YouTube).

Remember to leave time to land and get back to place!

41-48: Side couples (2 and 4) repeat (getting the hang of this?).

49-56: All join hands and circle round to the left and back.

57-64: Take promenade hold with partner (right hand in right, left in left, both in front of you) and dance anticlockwise once round the set.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmpMlOpHnTk>

Repeat ad lib.

Note: sometimes the circle is to the left only; in this case it is for the full eight bars.

Note: sometimes the caller misses out the promenade to allow 24 bars for the basket - this allows time for landing and changing over...

3. The Gay Gordons

Formation: couples around the room facing anti-clockwise, ladies on the right.

Music: 2/4 or 4/4 march. E.g. "Scotland the Brave", "The Gay Gordons".

Bars:	Description
1-2:	Right hands joined over lady's shoulder (man's arm behind her back) and left hands joined in front, walk forward for four steps, starting on the right foot.
3-4:	Still moving in the same direction, and without letting go, pivot on the spot (so left hand is behind lady and right hand is in front) and take four steps backwards.
5-8:	Repeat in the opposite direction.
9-12:	Drop left hands, raise right hands above lady's head. Lady pivots on the spot. (The man may set).
13-16:	Joining hands in ballroom hold, polka round the room.

Repeat ad lib.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DizrlpehgE>

4. Strip the willow

Formation: Longwise sets of 4 couples, men on the right and ladies on the left as viewed from the band. Couples number from nearest the band.

Music: 6/8 or 9/8 double jigs. E.g. "The Irish Washerwoman", "The Curlew", "The Jig of Slurs" for 6/8 and "Drops of Brandy" for 9/8.

Bars: Description

1-8 1st couple spin RH.

9-20 1st lady turns 2M LH, partner RH, 3M LH, partner RH, 4M LH.

21-24 Spin with partner RH to the end of the phrase.

25-36 1st man turns 4L LH, partner RH, 3L LH, partner RH, 2L LH.

37-40 Spin with partner RH to the end of the phrase.

41-52 1st lady works down men, while 1st man works down ladies, turning 2C LH, partner RH, 3C LH, partner RH, 4C LH.

53-56 Spin with partner RH to the end of the phrase.

Repeat ad lib.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q77xcosJi20>

Orcadian (or Shetland) Strip the Willow

Formation: Couples in a long line down the room, men on the right and ladies on the left as viewed from the band. Couples number from nearest the band.

Music: 6/8 or 9/8 double jigs. E.g. "The Irish Washerwoman", "The Curlew", "The Jig of Slurs" for 6/8 and "Drops of Brandy" for 9/8.

Bars: Description

1-8 1st couple spin RH.

9-... 1st couple work down the opposite line (ie of the people of the opposite sex) turning side person LH, partner RH, next side person LH, ...

When 1st couple reach the bottom, they spin to the end of the phrase, then join the side lines.

A new couple starts every 16 bars.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sh7TChOZ-fA>