

# Dancing Fingers

## 4x32 Reel Step Dance for 2 Couples

devised by Robert McOwen, 1991 (revised 2005)

Music: 4 Reels composed by Muriel Johnstone (Dancing Fingers, The Confluence, The Reversal, Tapsalterie) and available on the recording Dancing Fingers and sheet music from Scotscores.

Abbreviations: R=right, L=left, F=foot, S=shoulder, M=men, W=women, pdb=pas de basque.

Counts are given in parentheses with 2 counts (1 2) per bar of music.

### Part 1. Begin with couples facing as in Fig. 1a. Bow/curtsey to partner on chord.

**Bars 1-8:** Beginning w/ RF, W advance w/ 2 pdb (1&2 3&4) as M step diag. back into straight line as in Fig. 1b; W dance balance movement springing RF, LF (5 6) then 1 pdb (7&8).

Beginning w/ LF W dance 2 skip change to cast around own spot by LS (1&2 3&4); W dance propelled pivot turn w/ L elbow hold (5&6&7&8) to face partner.

**9-16:** All dance 1/2 reel of four w/ 4 skip change [M use progressive reel step w/ arms in 3rd position] (1-8). Use 1 more step to achieve Fig. 1c (1&2) then cross LF over RF and pivot turn to R (3 4); dance propelled pivot turn w/ partner and R elbow hold (5&6&7) then step LF (8) back into the positions of Fig. 1c.

**17-24:** Repeat bars 1-8 with M active [using highland arm positions] and W stepping diagonally back w/ LF into straight line.

**25-32:** Repeat bars 9-16, except only dance 1 bar of propelled pivot turn (5&6), then hop RF (&) and dance 1 bar of skip change w/ LF (7&8) to the positions of Fig. 2a.

### Part 2: Begin in square as in Fig. 2a (W are approx. facing their partner, M their opposite).

**Bars 1-8:** Travelling to the R one place along square, dance hop&travel w/ RF (1&2), then step onto heel of RF toward 2nd pos. and close LF to 5th rear pos. (&3) and step onto RF toward 2nd pos. and close LF to 5th rear pos. (&4); at the new corner of square, dance 2 brushes w/ RF toward 4th int. aerial (5 6), then spring onto RF making 1/4 turn to R and taking LF to 3rd rear aerial (7) and hop RF extending LF to 2nd aerial (8) [(7 8)="follow thru"]. Repeat (1-8) w/ LF, travelling one more place along square (while facing out).

**9-16:** Repeat bars 1-8 back to original places. [M use 2nd pos. arms in bars 1-16.]

**17-24:** M stand as W use 2 pdb to dance into center, pulling RS back to finish back-to-back; W stand as M use 2 pdb to dance into center, pulling RS back to finish back-to-back. All use 2 slip steps to R (1,2) and pivot on RF (3) to make 1/2 turn to R and step on LF (4) in new corner of square; all use 2 skip change to dance one place along square to corner diagonally opposite original corner.

**25-32:** Repeat bars 17-24 to regain original corner of the square.

### Part 3: Begin in square of Fig. 2a, facing partner.

**Bars 1-8:** All dance the following setting step: Assemble RF in 5th pos.(1), spread both feet to 2nd pos.(&), assemble LF in 5th pos.(2), retiré skip onto LF in 5th rear pos. (&3), step RF toward 2nd pos. and close LF in 5th rear pos. (&4); hopping LF execute a shake with RF to 4th int. aer. pos. (5&6), then hop LF and bourree under w/ RF to finish w/ RF in 5th pos. (&7&8). Repeat contra (1-8). [Arms for M: 1st pos.(1-4), 2nd pos.(5&6), 3rd pos.(7&8).]

**9-16:** W use 2 skip change to change places RS while M do 4 highcuts making 1/2 turn to R (1-4), M use 2 progressive reel steps to change places RS while W do 4 rock steps springing

RF to begin and making 1/4 turn to R (5-8); w/ 4 travelling steps dance around partner by LS to opp. pos. of square of Fig. 2a (1-8).

**17-32:** Repeat bars 1-16 from new positions, except on the last 2 bars turn partner 1/4 by LF to face the same direction, and take RHs in allemande hold. (One couple is now facing the front of the stage and the other is facing the back.)

**Part 4: Begin with couples facing as in Fig. 1a, near hands joined w/ partner.**

**Bars 1-8:** Using 3 skip change, couples dance around each other counter-clockwise to change places (1&2,3&4,5&6), then W dances to L and M to R, W turns under their joined LHs to face each other and release RHs (7&8); couples use 4 skip change to turn by LH once around (1&2,3&4,5&6) then W give RHs to change places as M dance into place (7&8); all finish in a staggered diagonal line with M on the ends, W back to back in the middle, facing their opposites.

**9-16\*:** Step RF (1), shuffle LF (&a), and execute ball-change w/ LF in 5th pos.(2&), hold (3), retiré skip LF into 5th rear pos. displacing RF to 2nd aerial (&4); dance sevens to L, taking RF to 5th rear to begin, and passing face-to-face w/ opposites to change places (5&6&7&8) [M use 3rd pos. arms]. Repeat bars 9 and 10 contra and making a 1/2 turn to L (1-4); spring toward opposite and dance a propelled pivot turn w/ L elbow hold (5&6&7&8) to finish in allemande hold (one couple facing the front of the stage and the other the back).

**17-32:** Repeat bars 1-16. The elbow turn is now with partner; finish in a line facing partner. Bow or curtsey to partner and turn to face audience; bow or curtsey to audience.

\* A simplified version of bars 9&10 and 13&14 is to omit the shuffle: Step LF(1), ball-change (2&), hold (3), and retiré skip (&4).