

Dorkington Trifle

(or, "A Trip to Dorkington")

Choreography Session at An English Trifle weekend
Timber Ridge Camp, May 2017

Three Couple Longways Set

To the tune, Maid of the Oaks [source: 1788 pamphlet]

Video: https://youtu.be/AS_pUI3xwIk (private link: please do not share)

A1 Women dance a hey for 3 (1st woman and 2nd woman pass right shoulders to begin) WHILE men orbit/chase clockwise around the women's line (Cf. Physical Snob).

A2 Men dance a hey for 3 (1st man and 2nd man pass right shoulders to begin) WHILE women orbit/chase counter-clockwise around the men's line.

B1 {Top two men face each other. Top two women face each other. 3rd couple face partner.} Give right hand to this person, then left hand (Cf. Jamaica). With these hands, turn halfway. Face away from this person and dance 3 changes (R-L-R, with hands) around the set. All now improper and progressed (order: 312)

B2 Men jump into center of the set, facing up (Cf. Nonesuch). Then Women jump into center of the set, facing down (to partner). Note: these jumps are quick ! Pattycake clapping: own hands together, right to partner's right, own together, left to partner's left. Swing partners, end facing up to begin next round.

Notes: The tune has a playful, "dorky" feel, and we reflected that in the dance movements (particularly in the B music). We originally tried to devise a 6 couple dance, with interesting progression and interactions between two adjacent 3 couple sets. In a single brief session, we lacked time to realize that ambitious vision -- but we think this dance stands on its own merits. Feel free to tweak and experiment with 6 couple variations if that suits your fancy !

Choreography workshop participants:

Carrie Rose

Emily Aubrey

Janet Muse

Jim Lautenberger

Josh Burdick

Kappy Laning

Maro Avakian

Scott Higgs

Tina Chancey

Maid of the Oaks

The musical score for "Maid of the Oaks" is presented in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of two sections, A and B, each with two staves of music. Section A begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The first staff of section A contains a repeat sign followed by six measures of music with chords D, A, D, G, D, and A. The second staff of section A contains six measures of music with chords D, A, D, A, E, and A. Section B begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The first staff of section B contains a repeat sign followed by six measures of music with chords A, G, D, and A. The second staff of section B contains six measures of music with chords G, D, G, D, A, and D. The score concludes with a double bar line.

from 1788 pamphlet
John Griffiths Dancing Master