

JANE AUSTEN'S QUADRILLE

Steps: walk and skip. Each dancer carries a garland.

Tune : Figure 1 of the Lancashire Quadrilles - "Desideratum".

Source: Figure 1 of the Bacup garland dances, modified in practices.

Title : Jane Austen lived in Chawton 1809 - 1817 still interested in Country Dancing. The quadrille was introduced in 1815 and it was unlikely that Miss Austen actually danced one.

Formation : a square set of 8 dancers. If possible done with two sets side by side.

Dance : 24 bars, led off by each pair in turn. Music uses B for Once to self, then A (16 bars) and B (8 bars) 4 times through. The B music has a second part. The last time the B is played a loudly as possible. All goes with gusto!

- A 1-4 Lead pair, start with garlands laid against each other, dancers facing, and garlands rocked out from the centre of the set. Walk into the centre of the set, starting with leading foot, three steps and a hop kicking the inside foot forward (2 bars). The garlands are rocked smartly forward, back and forward on each step and held forward for the hop. Walk back to place doing the same walk and hop and rocking garlands (2 bars).
- A 5-8 The lead pair separate a little, turn to their left, so that right hands are touching (or overlapping at wrists) and skip round turning partner by the right once round, ending both standing side by side facing across the set. The right hand dancer has to continue turning right on the spot to face front
- A 9-12 The left hand of the lead pair & the pair opposite them change places, passing right shoulders and turning to right to face back across the set. These two dancers skip across while the rest stand still. As these two change they cross the handles of their garlands, on the first beat of each bar, in front of them.
- A 13-16 The right hand of the same pairs cross similarly.
- B 1-4 The lead and opposite pairs walk & rock in and out as the lead pair did in A 1-4 while the other pairs do a right hand turn on the spot as did the lead pair in A 5-8.
- B 5-8 The lead and opposite pairs change back to their starting places, skip step, touching inside hands with partner, left hand dancer leading, going round clockwise round the other pair. The other two pairs make another right hand turn.

The dance is lead by each pair in turn, going anticlockwise round the set, in order. At the end all face in and lower garlands.