

ARCHES.

North Skelton

"Clash and Mark Time"

Dancers form up in two files 1v2, 6v3, 5v4, and partners cross swords with arms held high to form arches, and while quietly marking time with their feet, they clash their swords together on the 1st and middle beats of each bar with a slight movement of the wrist from right to left (8 bars)

"Guard of Honour"

Partners cross tips as above and mark time for 8 bars without clashing (8 bars)

Lowering their swords onto their right shoulders and breaking into a running step, 1&2 go side by side down the middle of the set, passing under the swords of the other dancers who, still marking time, edge up one place sideways. (4 bars) On reaching the bottom 1&2 face inward and fall into the places vacated by 5&4, cross tips of swords and mark time in this position (4 bars) This is done by the other two couples in turn (24 bars in all)

"Move Down and Cast"

On 1st beat 1&2 lower swords on shoulders & go down middle as before but on reaching bottom they cast off, outside their own side and come back to place. Meanwhile 6&3 marking time, move up to the top (2 bars) then lowering their swords follow 1&2 down the middle and cast up to places; while 5&4 move up to the top (4 bars) lower their swords and follow 6&3 down the middle, making a turn outward at the bottom to position. (8 bars)

Boosbeck

"Arches"

Dancers form up into 2 files 6v1, 5v2, 4v3, each pair silently crossing their swords at the tips & marking time (8 bars) 1&6 drop their swords onto their right shoulders, then go through the arches to the bottom place, the others moving up (4 bars) All mark time (4 bars) This repeated in turn by 2&5, 3&4 till all are back to original places, after which they all mark time for a further 8 bars.

Loftus

Form in 2 rows, swords raised in arches.
Mark time on spot, no clashing, with gentle step (8 bars)
Top couple cast down outside to bottom and march up through arches to place. Sword sloped over right shoulder. No clashing by arches (8 bars)
Middle couple, up middle under top arch, cast outside to bottom & up middle to place (8 bars)
Third couple up middle & cast to bottom, form arches (8 bars)
Arches mark time and clash (8 bars).

Lingdale

Form 2 facing lines swords in arches. Mark time, no taps (8 bars)
The film is not too helpful on phrasing as it seems that the team at the Albert Hall did each movement in 4 '8 bars as expected but marked time for about 2 bars between each movement. I think;
1st cu under arches & take up position at bottom (4 bars) As cu. goes down arches move slowly up one place.
2nd cu mark time (2 bars) then as 1st cu (4 bars)
3rd cu mark time (2 bars) then as 2nd cu (4 bars)
1st cu down middle, cast up outside to place (8 bars)
2nd cu wait (2 bars) then down middle, cast up outside to top & down middle to place (8 bars)
3rd cu wait (2 bars) then cast up outside to top & down middle to place (8 bars)
Arches mark time and clash (8 bars) It adds up to 4 bars adrift.