

CADI HA

The Cadi Ha is a song-dance performed during May in some districts of North Wales. Eyewitness accounts appear in "Welsh National Music and Dance" by Gwynn Williams and the "Journal of the Welsh Folk Song Society Vol. 3 Part 1." of performances in the Holywell (Treffynnon) district of Flintshire.

Eight men - straw hats, blackened faces, white shirts, white trousers. Profusely decorated with bows of ribbon, odds blue and evens red. Two white handkerchiefs.

Fool - known as "Bili" - dressed comically, in one instance in a tail coat and silk hat, and sometimes carrying a ladle with which to collect money.

Betty - known as "Cadi" - dressed as a woman.

Branch Bearer - carrying a birch branch, known as "Y Fedwen Haf" or a branch of gorse. Only member of party who does not black face.

Musician - fiddle or concertina.

PROCESSIONAL

Led by Fool, Betty and then the Branch bearer and the dancers. Dancers start in 2 files, 8 ft apart. They advance, crossing over and back diagonally until foreman calls "Halt!"

Face direction going, start left foot, left hand file always in front of right hand, crossing takes 4 bars. Step is 123hop. In 4th bar the stepping is "right, feet together, turning, jump and wave". On the middle beat the dancers jump with both feet and face, throwing up their arms and waving their handkerchiefs with a sharp inward turn of the wrists, while the foreman calls "HWP" (hoop)

SET DANCE

1. Dancers face partners and sing verse 1. The fool leads the betty down between the files and leaves the betty at the bottom and then returns to top.
2. Partners cross over, passing right shoulders and turn left to face front ready for the leap and wave when the foreman calls "HWP". Cross back passing right shoulders etc again. (8 bars)
3. Dancers face partners and sing verse 2. The fool and betty advance and meet in centre, turn with right hands and return to places.
4. Partners dance back-to-back both ways with same step, leap, wave and call as processional.
5. Dancers face partners and sing verse 3. The fool and betty meet in centre, turn left hands and go down to bottom of set.
6. Fool and Betty lead off. Foreman and his partner, followed by the rest, turn inwards down the centre and continue the procession as before.

SONG

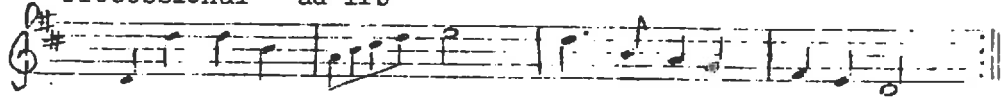
At end of each line (4 bars) all sing or shout "Hwp, dyna fo!" (Hoop, that will do) one or two times.

"Cadi ha, Morys stowt, Am yr uchla'neidio,
A chynffon buwch a chynffon llo, A chynffon Rhisiart Parri'r go.
Fy ladal i, a'i ladal o, A'r ladal gawsom fenthys,
A Chynffon.....
A fi'di gwr y ruban coch, Neidiaf dros y goeden,
A Cynffon"

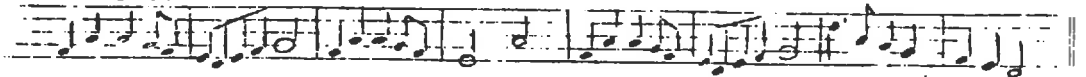
"Cadi ha, Morris stout, For the highest leaping,
And tail of cow and tail of calf, The blacksmith Richard Parry's
too.
A ladle here, a ladle there, the ladle that we borrowed,
Tail of.....
For I'm the red beribbon'd man, O'er the birch a leaping,
Tail of"

CADI HA MUSIC

Processional - ad lib



Dance



Song



Call - at end of each line above.



Hwp dyn a fo!