

English Country Dance: Deeds Not Words

by Hazel Moir, to a tune composed by Rebecca King

This dance was commissioned by Friends of Cecil Sharp House to celebrate the centenary of British women's suffrage and Mary Neal, whose advocacy of suffrage was tied to her belief in participatory folk dance. The tune contains a motif from the song "The March of the Women," which activists sang during marches and prison hunger strikes. The title comes from their motto.

Formation: Longways

SYMBOLISM

- | | |
|---|--|
| A1. All set and turn single to partner
First corners go straight across the set & behind partners to change places (women above the men)
Women will dance with women and men with men for most of the dance from now on. | Traditional |
| A2. Women lead down WHILE Men move up.
Women face & set
WHILE Men give right hand, let go & give left hand, let go
Women lead up through the men & cast to second place (women below the men) | Marching

Obstacles
Marching |
| B1. Circle four half way & turn single left
Women 2 hand turn
WHILE Men turning towards women, step right and briefly acknowledge, step left and acknowledge | Negotiating
Triumph

Acknowledgement |
| B2. First corner positions (W1 & M2) go straight across the set and round opposites to change places
All opposite partners to end the figure
Right hand star with joined hands raised
Men have the option of joining in the star or stepping back with arms folded | Change

Celebrating
Acting out some of the reaction of the time |

Hazel Moir is a dance choreographer, and caller. As an energetic and committed dance organiser—of tours, various annual dance weekends and the Pat Shaw Legacy Group—she has played a key role in the British ECD scene.

Rebecca King is a classically trained pianist and composer with strong roots in jazz and folk music. A sought-after musician for contra and English Country dances, she performs solo and with small ensembles, including the band Persons of Quality.

Deeds Not Words

Dance by Hazel Moir

Rebecca King, 2018

A C ♩ = 106

The musical notation is written on five staves in treble clef, 4/4 time. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 106. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The first staff (A) contains measures 1-4 with chords C, F, C, F, G, F, G. The second staff contains measures 5-8 with chords Am, 1. Bb, F, Bb, 2. Bb, G, C. The third staff (B1) contains measures 9-12 with chords G, Dm, G, Am, F. The fourth staff (B2) contains measures 13-16 with chords C, F, Dm, G, C, G, Dm. The fifth staff contains measures 17-20 with chords G, Am, F, C, Bb, G, C.

Measure 23 can be played like measure 15, if desired.

[Click here](#) or on the notation above for a downloadable PDF with instruction and tune.



Dancers at the Friends of Cecil Sharp House workshop celebrating British women's suffrage in London, UK (photo by Louise Siddons)