

Notes for Deep Dive #17

David Smukler, May 2, 2021

Mrs. Savage's Whim

Dancing Master, 1710

Duple minor longways

As reconstructed by Bernard Bentley, 1962

- A1** 1-2 First corners set right and left (*triple time setting*)
3-4 Left-file neighbors 2-hand turn
5-8 Ones back-to-back, turn single right
- A2** 1-4 Second corners set right and left
3-4 Right-file neighbors 2-hand turn
5-8 Twos back-to-back, turn single right
- B** 1-2 Ones cross and cast down, twos moving up
3-4 Partners all back-to-back
5-7 Ones half figure-8 up through the twos
8 Ones mirror turn single down

Bentley interpreted “the first Man Sett to the second Woman” as “1st Man step and honour the 2nd Woman.” Modern dancers tend to prefer more participation, and the version I learned gets both corners moving by having them do a slow triple time set, right and left. After all, the original does say, “Sett”.... (I put the original directions below so you can compare.)

Notice also that there is no turn single in the original directions. Bentley, is careful to acknowledge changes he has made, and he writes, “In A and B turns single have been added.” These can, in fact, be omitted to make the dance easier. Bentley also explicitly has all go back-to-back in the B-part, though in the original it looks like that would have only been for the ones.

Bentley timed the A-parts (5-8) as back-to-back in 6 counts, and turn single in 6. A common alternative is back-to-back in 9 counts and a 3-count turn single. Which feels better to you?

Mrs. Savage's Whim. Longways for as many as will. 



Note: *The first Strain twice over, and the last but once.*

The first Man Sett to the second Woman, then turn the second Man, and go Back to Back with his own Partner. *This to the first Strain play'd once.* Then the second Woman do the same. *This to the first Strain play'd twice.* Then the first Couple cross over, and go Back to Back with your Partner, then go the Figure above into the second Couple's Place. *This to the second Strain play'd once,*

And now... Two Dances from 2021!

Doctor Fauci's Return David Smukler 2021 Duple minor longways
Tune by Debbie Jackson, 3 steps per bar

A1 1-4 Circle left (bars 1-3), partners cross passing right shoulders (bar 4)
5-8 Loop left to face back in (bar 5), partners left-shoulder back-to-back (bars 6-8)

A2 1-4 Similarly, circle *right*, partners cross passing *left* shoulders
5-8 Loop *right* to face back in, partners *right*-shoulder back-to-back

B1 1-2 First corners change places
3-4 Second corners the same
5-6 Partners the same
7-8 Ones cast up *while* twos lead down

B2 *Modified Petit Fours and Progress*

Ones:	Twos:
1 Pass by RS and immediately face down	Fall back
2 Lead down the center	Come up the outside
3 Fall back	Pass by RS and immediately face down
4 Come up the outside	Lead down the center
5-6 Cross and cast down one place	California twirl and lead up
7-8 Partners 2-hand turn	Partners 2-hand turn

Pay attention to timing. In the A-parts, it is a 9-count circle, 6 counts to cross and face back in, and 9 more for back-to-back. With 6 counts each, the corner changes in B1 have plenty of time.

“Petit fours” is a meanwhile figure invented by Gary Roodman for his dance “Mary Kay.”

The Hand That Rocks the Cradle Meg Grindrod, 2021 Duple minor longways
Tune: Turlute à Bassinette, by André Brunet (played AB, 4 steps per bar)

A 1-2 “Serpentine weave past two” as follows: Original neighbors open draw pousette clockwise halfway; then change places with next neighbor couple, keeping backs to each other throughout (counterclockwise); finish by all turning over left shoulder into...

3 Left-hand star halfway with most recent neighbors (#2)

4 Within original foursomes, first corners change places

And once coast is clear, second corners change also (*all are home, facing out*)

5-6 Neighbors lead out, turn alone and lead back in

7-8 Partners back-to-back (*all home*)

B 1-2 Three quick changes of rights and lefts, right hand to partner to begin

3-4 Partners two-hand turn, end facing up

5-8 Full double figure-8, ones cross up and twos cast down to begin

Love's Triumph

Dancing Master, 1710

Three-couple longways


As reconstructed by David Smukler (2021)


- A1** 1-4 Top four (ones and twos): corners come forward to meet, turn single to place
5-8 Same four circle left halfway and 2-hand turn partner halfway
- A2** 1-8 Bottom four (ones and threes) the same (*ending 2-3-1 order*)
- B1** 1-2 Ones, a quick cast up to middle place, threes leading down
3-8 Ones only, back-to-back (3-6, crossing the phrase) and turn single right (7-8)
9-16 Top four, 4 changes of rights and lefts, starting with partner
- B2** 1-2 Ones with their first corner, right-hand turn about 3/4
3-4 Ones with that person's partner, right-hand turn about 3/4 more, ending with all on own side in 2-1-3 order
5-8 Partners all back-to-back
9-12 Ones lead up through twos and cast back to the middle
13-16 Ones lead down to bottom and turn single away *while* threes cast up

Ends in 2-3-1 order.

Note that both turns at the beginning of B2 (bars 1-4) are by the right hand.

Love's Triumph has already been interpreted by Bernard Bentley, Fried Herman, Philippe Callens, Colin Hume, and others. My version largely follows Colin Hume's 2007 interpretation, which is the only one I have seen that neatly solves the problem of finishing the A-parts with all on their original side. I chose to re-interpret it because none of the authors mentioned above manage to include the final "Back to Back with your Partners" from the original directions (just before "lead thro"). I found I could accomplish that using a little bit of Fried Herman's rather creative interpretation (two right-hand turns in a row). The reason there are so many reconstructions is that the original text is not entirely clear. Every one of these interpretations, including mine, have some elements that are difficult to justify based on the 1710 instructions.

Love's Triumph . *Longways for as many as will.* 



Note : Each Strain is to be play'd twice over.

All four meet and turn single, then Hands half round. The first Couple meet the third Couple and turn single, then Hands half round. The first Couple being in the third Couple's Place, cast up into the second Couple's Place, then Back to Back with your Partner, then turn single, and Right and Left quite round with the second Couple. The first Couple being in the second Couple's Place, the first Man turn the third Woman, and the first Woman the second Man, then the first Man turn the third Man, and the first Woman turn the second Woman, then Back to Back with your Partners, then lead thro' the second Couple and cast off, and lead thro' the third Couple and cast up.