

MR. JOHN RICE'S GIFT

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Three Scottish Country Dances

Devised in His Honour

by

Maureen A. Chevens.

John Rice's Gift - No. 1. The Reel.

John Rice's Gift - No. 2. The Strathspey.

John Rice's Gift - No. 3. The Medley.

DEDICATION.

TO: MR. JOHN RICE , CONSULTANT ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON, M.D., FRCS. (ORTH.).

WHOSE GOD-GIVEN GIFT OF SURGICAL EXPERTISE RESTORED MY ABILITY TO ENJOY ONCE MORE MY MUCH-LOVED SCOTTISH DANCING.

HE HAS MY ETERNAL GRATITUDE FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR ME AND FOR HIS CONSTANT ENCOURAGEMENT.

I PRAY THAT HE WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT MANY YEARS TO HEAL AND RENEW THOSE WHO NEED HIS BRAIN AND HIS SKILFUL HANDS.

FOREWORD.

In July, 2014, Mr. John Rice performed an operation on my left knee and literally gave me back my Scottish dancing.

Scottish Dancing has been and still is a lifelong passion for me. I met it with delight at the age of 14 / 15.

Over the years, however, arthritis, the bane of most P.E. teachers, had steadily worsened until eventually, when dancing, I could only walk in time to the music. It was Mr. John Rice, my orthopaedic consultant, who, having treated me with injections and arthroscopy, told me that my remaining option was a left knee replacement.

With his encouragement, I accepted that it was time for the operation, so, in July 2014, the deed was done.

Six months later, at the end of January, 2015, at the Robert Burns's Supper in Cork - an important occasion for all Scottish dancers - I was able to dance through most of the programme .

In appreciation, I decided that I would try to compose three Scottish dances - a Reel, Strathspey and a Medley - in his honour and as a tribute to a very skilled, careful and caring surgeon: three dances, to symbolise (a) God's marvellous gift to him of his surgical skill; (b) his gift to me, enabling me to dance again and (c) my gift to him to thank him in a meaningful and - I hope - unusual way.

The figures in the dances symbolise the structure of the knee -e.g. the menisci and the cruciate and other ligaments. The Left Shoulder Reel in the No. 1 dance is to show that it was the left knee that was replaced. In the Strathspey, the leading man shepherds the lady along until she can dance on her own.

Mile Buiochas Duit.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My sincere thanks to all my friends, but especially to the following :

MUSIC : To Pat and Peter Clark of Dumfries in Scotland for so generously composing and recording the music for the dances and to George Meikle for his part in it.

FILMING / PRODUCTION : To Daniela Mueller and Patrick O'Hara.

PARTICIPATING DANCERS : Hazel Convery, Pascal Faurie, John Gibson, Tony Graham, Ruth Hughes, Helen McGinley, Meadhbh McEvoy, Daniela Mueller, Patrick O'Hara, Mary Tan, Patricia Chevens, Maureen Chevens and our kind reserve, Pam Campbell.

FINALLY : My deepest appreciation to everyone: to my dancing friends from Cork, Dublin and the UK., -- thank you for trying out the dances for me. Special thanks to Hazel and Liam Convery, to Helen McGinley, to my sister, Patricia and to my friend, Maureen O'Reilly, for their constant support and encouragement and their very practical help at all times.

“ JOHN RICE’S GIFT No 1: THE REEL “

For 3 couples in a 4-couple longwise set. 8 x 40 bars. Music : Paddy Chevens’Reel (Pat Clark), Sparkenhoe Circle (George Meikle), Ian Jamieson, Mrs Mary Printy (Pat Clark). Dev:Maureen Chevens

BARS

- 1 – 4 1st and 2nd couples join hands on the sidelines and set; cross over with partners, giving right hds
- 5 - 8 1st and 2nd cpls join hds on sidelines and set; turn ptrn with right hds into Allemande hold.
- 9 – 16 1st and 2nd cpls dance Allemande. 2s end in 1st place; 1s end back to back facing own sides, in Double Triangles position.
- 17 – 24 1s dance Double Triangles with 2s and 3s, ending on own sides in 2nd place.
- 25 – 32 From the sidelines, 1s turn their 1st corners by Rt hand (2 bars), pass each other Rt shoulder(2), turn 2nd corners Rt hd, and “help” each other with LEFT hand (2) to face 1st corners again for
- 33 - 40 Reel of 3 (6 bars) on the sides with the corners, giving left shoulder to 1st corner to start, and crossing to 2nd place on own sides on the last 2 bars.

Repeat again from 2nd place, and until all have danced as above.

Paddy Chevens' Reel

Reel 8x40 bars (AABAB)

A



A7 D A7 D/f# D G D/f# E7 A7



D A7 D/f# D G D/f# A7 D

B



G D/f# Em D E7 E7 A7



Bm A G D/f# Em A7 D

Pat Clark March 2016

For the dance: 'John Rice's Gift - 1'
by Maureen Chevens

“ JOHN RICE’S GIFT No. 2 : THE STRATHSPEY “

For 3 couples in a longwise 4 cpl set. 8 x 32 bars. Music : Maureen Chevens , Miss Anne Hughes, Peter John Clark, John Stephen of Chance Inn, all by Pat Clark.

BARS

- 1 - 8 1s and 2s dance The Knot. 2s end at the top, while 1s end facing 3L, 1M guiding 1L into position in the last two steps as he dances behind her.
- 9 - 12 1s in tandem, (passing Rsh with 3L to begin), dance a diagonal ½ reel of 3 with 3L and 2M, and face 2L for
- 13 – 16 1s diagonal ½ reel of 3 (R sh to 2L to begin), with 2L and 3M, and face 3L again (now in position of 1L’s 1st corner).
- 17 - 20 1s diagonal ½ reel of 3 (R sh to 3L to begin) with 3L and 2M. 1M follows 1L on bars 17 / 18, and on bars 19 / 20, dances into 2nd place on his own side, while 1L dances on to face 2L again (now in posn of 1L’s 2nd corner).
- 21 – 24 1L (R sh to 2L to begin), dances the final diagonal ½ reel of 3 with 2L and 3M, curling round into 2nd place , own side, to finish. (All are now back on own sides, in order 2,1,3 and 4).
- 25 - 32 2s, 1s and 3s dance six hands round and back.
- Repeat the dance from 2nd place and until all have danced.

NOTE: THE STRATHSPEY .

The strathspey rhythm, which emerged in Scotland about the middle of the 18th century, is probably Scotland’s most notable contribution to the tradition of country dancing. With its characteristic “ dotted ” rhythm, the Strathspey was and is uniquely Scottish.

Maureen Chevens

Strathspey 8x32 (ABBC)

A

D7 G/b G Am/C D Em C G/b D

Am/c G/b Am D7 Am/c D G/b D7 G

B

D7 G/b A7/c# D7 C G/b A7 D

G C A D7 Em Am/c D7 G

C

G/b G Am/c D Em C G/b D

Am/c G Am D7 G/b Am/c D7 G

Pat Clark March 2016

For the dance: 'John Rice's Gift - 2'
by Maureen Chevens

“JOHN RICE’S GIFT No. 3 : THE MEDLEY “

For 4 couples in a Square Set 2 x (32 Strathspey + 32 Reel) bars.

Music by Pat Clark :- Strathspey : Strickeen House. Reel : On the move again .

BARS : A) STRATHSPEY

1 - 6 1st Lady, followed by her partner, casts off round 1st Man’s place, dances in front of 1st place, passes 4th Man by left shoulder to dance behind 4th couple, partner still following, and into centre of set to finish facing 4th cpl. (1L still on Rt of 1M).

AT THE SAME TIME, 3L, similarly, followed by 3M, casts off round 3M’s place, dances in front of 3rd place, passes 2M by left shoulder to dance behind 2nd cpl and into centre of set to finish facing 2nd cpl. (3L still on Rt of 3M).

7 - 8 Taking nearer hands with partner, 1s and 4s set to each other, 3s and 2s likewise.

9 - 16 Giving Rt shoulder, all dance parallel reels of four across the set, ending in the two lines of four again.

17 - 24 While 1st cpl dance a full figure of eight round 4th cpl., 3s do the same round the 2s. All finish in the lines of four again.

25 - 26 Taking nearer hands with partner, all set to person facing.

27 - 29 1st and 3rd cpl dancers each pass the person facing by the Rt shoulder, and 1st and 3rd Men follow their partners back to own places, finishing by

30 - 32 turning with Rt hd into original places. All clap twice on the last 2 beats of bar 32.

“ JOHN RICE’S GIFT No. 3: THE MEDLEY “ (continued)

BARS: B) REEL

1 - 8 All dance eight hands round and back.

9 - 16 All four ladies cast off round their partners into the centre of the set and dance left hands across once round, finishing back to back in the centre, each facing her own partner.

17 - 28 (12 BARS) All eight dancers dance a Double Interlocking Reel of Four (1s and 3s up and down , 2s and 4s across the dance). - i.e. :-

17 - 18 Ladies pass Men Rt shoulder, dancing out while Men dance in.

19 - 20 Ladies * curve round end of reel and in, while Men dance Left hds across half way round.

21 - 22 Ladies dance Left hds across half way round while Men dance out.

23 - 24 Ladies pass Men Rt sh., dancing out while Men dance in.

25 - 26 Ladies dance in while Men dance Left hds across $\frac{1}{2}$ way round.

27 - 28 Ladies dance Left hds across while Men dance out.

N.B. * - Each “ dance out ” / “ dance in ” is a curve, a $\frac{1}{4}$ of the reel shape.

All passings are RIGHT shoulder. All $\frac{1}{2}$ wheels are LEFT hands.

Everyone ends where they began this figure, but dance on into

29 - 32 (4 BARS) All four Men turn their partners by the Right hand into Promenade hold and dance anti-clockwise to the next place on, round the set.

Begin again in Strathspey time from the new places.

(At end of 2nd time through, - ie. end of full 64 bars, either dance on to next new places for final bow and curtesy, or turn (Rh) so Ladies end back to back in centre, facing partners, for last bow and curtesy.)

John Rice's Gift 3

A Medley - - 32 bar strathspey + 32 bar reel

Strickeen House

Strathspey

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign. The notes are primarily eighth and sixteenth notes, with some dotted rhythms. The chords are indicated below the staff. The second staff continues the melody with similar rhythmic patterns. The third staff shows a change in the melodic line, incorporating some longer note values. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a final cadence.

Chords for the first staff: A7, D, G, D/f#, D, A7

Chords for the second staff: D, G, D/f#, D, A7, D, F#

Chords for the third staff: Bm, D/f#, D, Em, E7, A, F#

Chords for the fourth staff: Bm, A, A/c#, D, Em/g, A7, D

Pat Clark May 2016

John Rice's Gift 3

A Medley - - 32 bar strathspey + 32 bar reel

On the move again

Reel

E7 A Bm E7 A Bm E7

A E7/g# A E7 A E7 A

D A/c# B7 E D A/c# E7

E7/g# A Bm E7 F#m D E7 A

Pat Clark

May 20016