

Merlin And The Masons

Adapted by: Michael Barraclough

Original: The Working Masons in Merlin in A Choice Collection Of Country Dances (John & William Neal, 1726, Dublin)

Source: Unpublished

Formation: Longways Duple Proper

Tune:: Specific tune - Of Noble Race Was Shinkin (Dancing Master, Vol 1, 9th edn, 1695)

Music: Dm 2/2

Notes:

- 1) The choreography is inspired by the dance The Working Masons In Merlin (A Choice Collection Of Country Dances, John & William Neal, 1726, Dublin).
- 2) Rich Jackson & George Fogg provide their interpretation of The Working Masons In Merlin in their 1990 book "A Choice Collection Of Country Dances as Printed and Sold by John and William Neal in Christ Church Yard, Dublin c1726". I do not find this convincing and also consider that an actual realisation is unlikely as there does not seem to be a good match between the amount of dance movement and the amount of music in the original instructions. Accordingly, I consider this to be a new dance, adapted from the original. To emphasise this, I have set this new choreography to a different tune.

- A1 1-4 1s lead through the 2s and cast back
- A2 1-4 2s lead through the 1s and cast back
- B1 1-4 1s gate 2s (*up*) into a line of four (*facing up*)
5-8 All set right & left and turn single right
- B2 **Double Do-si-do and wheel**
1-2 (*Men holding nearest hands, ladies holding nearest hands*) change ends (*men slide right and behind, ladies slide left and in front*)
3-4 Change back (*men slide left and in front, ladies slide right and behind*)
5-6 Wheel (*as pairs, 1s moving forward*). Into **[line of four, facing down, 1s in the centre]**
Cloverleaf
7-8 Turn single (*1s ↓ and away, end close facing ↓, 2s ↑ and away, end apart facing*)