

Winter Oranges

longways English Country Dance for three couples, proper

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Tune: *Winter Oranges*, by Daron Douglas

Recording: *Winter Oranges*, Foxfire, 2010, Daron Douglas Music.

- A1 1-8 1st couple cross, cast off below 3rd couple, dance up to second position and turn out to face nearest 2nd person. (W1 faces M2, M1 faces W2.) 2nd couple does *not* step up.
- A2 1-4 Taking two hands, M1 push W2 out on a right diagonal, then draw her back to 3rd position.
...while...
W1 similarly push M2 out and draw him back to 1st position
...while...
3rd couple wait two bars and then lead up to second position.
- 5-8 All set and turn single.
- B1 1-8 All circle six hands round left and back right.
- B2 1-4 W1, followed by W3 and W2, cast off to 3rd place to invert the woman's line.
5-8 All right-shoulder gypsy with partner.

While listening to Daron's tune on the Foxfire CD of the same name, I started dancing around our living room. The first sixteen bars almost wrote themselves. The B-music section was quite a struggle since the A-music leaves the dancers in a choreographically awkward spot. After hours of trying increasingly more complicated solutions, it came to me that simply inverting the woman's line brings everyone back to their partner and in progressed places. Once again, I put on the music, dance what I had written so far and the final gypsy figure again wrote itself.

This is a delightfully simple dance that perfectly fits Daron's light-hearted jig. There are many opportunities for frivolous flirtation, especially when the women leave the men in B2 1-4 and then rejoin their partners for the gypsy. The dance flows beautifully from the turn single at the end of A2 into the circle at the beginning of B1, from the right circle at the end of B1 into the ladies' cast at the beginning of A2, and from the final gypsy to the 1st couple cross at the beginning.

The first eight bars may seem like a long time for the required path. The technique to fit the movement to the music is for the first couple to take extra time when turning back to back to face their 2nd person. They can assist each other and turn up and away, release nearer hand and turn opposite ways, or turn down and away. There is a great opportunity for flirtation and invention.

This dance is very suitable for beginners.