

## The Gloomy Winter

Dance for 3 couples in a 4 couple longwise set

8 x 32 bar Strathspey

- 1 - 4 1st lady casts off below 2nd lady and dances across to 2nd man's place **while** 1st man dances across to 1st lady's place and casts off into 2nd place. 2nd couple step up on bars 3 and 4.
- 5 - 8 1st couple turn  $1\frac{3}{4}$  times by the left hand.
- 9 - 10 1st lady and 2nd couple dance right hands across half way **while** 1st man casts up on the ladies' side.
- 11 - 12 1st couple passing left shoulder, 1st man takes 1st lady's place and dances left hands across half way with 2nd couple **while** 1st lady casts off on the ladies' side.
- 13 - 16 1st couple repeat bars 13-16 with 3rd couple, lady with the left hand and man with the right hand.
- 17 - 20 1st couple pass left shoulder in the centre to start half a diagonal reel of four with their 1st corners. At the end of the half reel, 1st couple pass right shoulder in the middle of the dance and 1st man curves round to follow behind 1st lady, into...
- 21 - 24 1st lady followed by 1st man gives right shoulder to 3rd man to start half a diagonal reel of three with 2nd corners. 1st couple dance this reel of 3 as a unit.
- 25 - 28 1st couple give right shoulder to 2nd man (in 3rd lady's place) to start half a diagonal reel of three with 1st corners.
- 29 - 32 1st lady casts round 1st man (passing right shoulder) and gives right shoulder to 2nd lady (in 3rd man's position) **while** 1st man gives right shoulder to 3rd man (in 2nd lady's position), to start half a diagonal reel of four. At the end of the reel, 1st couple pass right shoulders to return to 2nd place on their own sides of the dance. 1st lady remains facing out, ready to cast off again

Repeat, having passed a couple.

This dance was written for Sophia Marriage and presented to her on the occasion of her 25th birthday. It was published in the New Scotland 50th Anniversary Book.

A variant, "Gloomy Winter's Noo Awa'" was written for her 30th birthday, which replaces bars 9-16 with a simpler figure. This was because dancers in Edinburgh found these bars too complicated. However, dancers in San Gabriel Valley, after trying both both dances, decided they preferred this version. Try them both and see what you think.

**Tune:** Gloomy Winter *(Traditional, from Kerr's Collection)*

2 (cc) Ian Brockbank, November 1996

### Gloomy Winter

Trad.

Strathspey

