

Anniversary Dance

By Paula Kelley, Martha Kent, Val Medve (June 2011)

Formation: Longways duple minor

Tune: Kean O'Hara, First Air (played AB, where A is 16 bars and B is 8 bars)

A

- 1-4 Join hands in a ring of 4 and circle L.
- 5-8 Star L back to original place.
- 9-12 Partner back-to-back L shoulder.
- 13-14 2 quick changes of rights & lefts WITH hands, starting with partner (3 steps per change). All are now progressed and improper, with 1's below their 2's.
- 15-16 Set to partner.

B

- 1-4 1's half-figure-8 up through their original 2's.
- 5-8 2's half-figure-8 down through their original 1's.
2's end facing up to start the dance with the next 1's.

ALTERNATE [A 13-16]: As the dance choreographers, we like bars 13-16 of the A music as written, since it gives the dance more “texture”/interest. BUT beginning dancers may find it a bit too “busy”. So for a beginning crowd, try this:

A

- 13-16 2 changes of rights & lefts WITH hands, starting with partner
(2 bars/6 steps per change).

BACKGROUND: On June 24, 2011, John and Fran Mallery celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary with a dance evening at the Worcester Town Hall in Vermont. The event featured English country and contra dances set to Carolan tunes. John gave Val Medve, one of the callers that night, a list of tunes from which to choose. But one tune was especially important to include, because it was the processional music at John and Fran's wedding: Kean O'Hara, First Air. Not finding any existing dances set to that music, Val offered to create an English country dance to the tune. She enlisted the help of friends Paula Kelley and Martha Kent – and while riding in a carpool to an English country dance weekend, the dance was born and tweaked! John christened it “Anniversary Dance” and its debut on June 24, 2011 was a surprise for Fran.