

## Nelson Morris Dance: Notation

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|---------------------------------|
| <b>Chorus/step up</b>           |
| <b>Twos/Figure 1</b>            |
| <b>Mixed twos /Figure 2</b>     |
| <b>Diagonal fours /Figure 3</b> |
| <b>Cast/Figure 4</b>            |
| <b>Finish</b>                   |

The dance was originally a processional northwest dance.

Malkin uses a slow hornpipe for this ("Steamboat") using 1A and 2Bs except for figure 2 which uses 2 As and 3 Bs: Julian Pilling recommended local marches. "*John Peel*" and "*Ninety Five*" are tunes mentioned in his notes. Alan Seymour mentions that it would be a tune like "*British Grenadiers*." Upon seeing a recording of the Malkin performance, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019, he was impressed favourably but commented it should be a lot faster and with knees horizontal in the step. The whole dance should last less than two minutes.

Sticks: short sticks with bells at each end and held in the middle, shaken alternatively. Default position is over head sloping slightly forward, held horizontally.

Malkin starts the dance with a step up which was adapted from the "step and turn" start of each figure. Pilling suggested 8 bars of marking time or other very simple chorus movement.

### Chorus/step up

- 8 steps inside foot start, hop steps, slow, knees high making right angles, added by Malkin as original dance notation suggests a simple 8 bar figure as chorus/step up.
- 4 more steps raising sticks horizontally over heads, opposite hand to foot added by Malkin in line with advice in notation.
- 4 steps turning crisply in, back, out, front, raising alternate sticks as before.
- Be ready for quick start to each figure.

### Figure 1, twos, as written

- NB original notation used hand movements as in second part of chorus/step up when dancing to partner's place.
- Steps 1-3 Turn in and meet partner, odds facing down and evens facing up NB 1 is front left as looking up the set at start of dance.
- Step 4 Crisply turn right shoulder to right shoulder in a straight line crossing sticks with partner.
- Steps 5-16 Dance a full turn and out to partner's position.
- Steps 17-32 Repeat to place, NB right shoulders both times though Alan Seymour's /Roy Dommett's notations mentions left shoulder meeting second time.

### Chorus/step up

### Figure 2, mixed twos, as written above for twos section

- Steps 1-16 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> couples dance figure half of figure 1 (twos) whilst 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> couples do the chorus/step up again
- Steps 17-32 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> couples do first half of figure 1 whilst couples 1 and 3 do the chorus/step up as if they were on their original side
- Steps 33-48 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> couples dance second half of figure 2 whilst 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> couples do chorus/step up again, using original hands/feet
- Steps 49-64 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> couples dance second part of figure 1 whilst 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> couples do chorus/step up, using original hands/feet

### **Chorus/step up**

#### **Figure 3: diagonal fours**

- Steps 1-3 Right hands into 4s, 1 and 4 making a clear line up and down the set. 2 and 3 make a straight line across the set. Outside hands up.
- Step 4 right hand in
- Step 5-8 move round to opposite corner and out to diagonally opposite place from start
- Steps 9-16 Repeat left hand back to place with 2 and 3 forming the line along the set and 1 and 4 across. NB Amendment of bars in this section courtesy of Helen Whittaker, Westmorland Step and Garland Dancers (thank you!).

### **Chorus /step up**

#### **Figure 4 cast out**

- Cast from front, performing arm movements overhead. NB original notation uses 1 2 3 hop with sticks only raised on hop. Original notation ends here.
- When meeting with partner, Malkin only cross inside sticks high, and dance down middle of set. Outside hand over head.
- Once everyone is back, front left leads under the arches, followed by rest in single file but all with same hand in the air right first, stick horizontal.
- Follow the first dancer off.

### **Resources**

Dommett, Roy, Nelson Notation : see copyright notice below

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7URBRCTaIHSS3FkQnBYMUs0NVk/view>

Dommett, Roy, Nelson Marching Dance

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7URBRCTaIHSSGxIbm41S2pYM1k/view>

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Seymour, Alan, notes for The Nelson Dance.