

Mrs Marhoff's Single Hornpipe

Notes for Joint Morris Organisation Zoom workshop 24 April 2021

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The dance is sometimes known as the Sunderland Hornpipe (also, apparently, Sunderland Reel and even the Sunderland Polka) although Mrs Marhoff appears not to have called it that.

This is the single version, there is a double hornpipe with double shuffles replacing the shuffles. Mrs Marhoff also had some other dances.

Further information on the Instep Research Team website including full Newcastle Notation booklet. <https://insteptr.co.uk/dancers/viona-marhoff/>

These notes compiled from my recollection of learning the dance with Mrs Viona Marhoff and the Newcastle Notation booklet. I learnt the dance in the early 1980s at a Newcastle Cloggies weekend. Geoff Hughes also learnt this dance from Mrs Marhoff in the 1970s and has taught it.

Style

Mrs Marhoff was very insistent on these points:

- Straight shuffles, pointing straight ahead
- Danced on the spot
- Feet close together, neat
- Light with crisp beats
- Very fast

It is danced all on/with the ball of the foot except one point where 'toe' is used in step four.

Mrs Marhoff said you should be able to dance it on a breadboard and apparently made the collectors do that when she taught them the dance. NB the breadboard was one of those little round ones.

Music

Mrs Marhoff always danced it to College/Sailor's Hornpipe.

The dance has four steps each is danced twice starting left then right.

Dotted or not dotted? The last step is danced undotted but it's not so clear for the other steps.

- The Newcastle Notation states "dotted hornpipe but this should not be allowed to stop the flow of the beats".
- The earlier collection field notes by Chris Metherell seem to suggest undotted.
- I think some people dance it dotted and some undotted.
- I usually dance it fast and undotted as undotted seems to me to work best at a fast speed.
- If dotted, perhaps not too heavily dotted?

Mnemonics

When I learnt the dance, two mnemonics for learning the rhythms of the first two steps were used. The mnemonics for steps 3 and 4 come from Jen Cox and myself respectively. Feel free to make up our own!

Step 1: 'Johnny had a fat cat' (or black cat).

'1 a 2 a 3 4' OR '1 and 2 and 3 and 4'

Step 2: 'Johnny had a big fat cat with a shuffle on' (or black cat).

'1 a 2 a 3 4 1 2 a 3 a 4' OR '1 and 2 and 3 4 1 2 and 3 and 4'

Step 3: 'Johnny had a fat wallaby'.

'1 a 2 a 3 4 & a' OR '1 and 2 and 3 4 & a'

Step 4: 'Would you like a gin and tonic'. (OR Would you like a cup of coffee)

'1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and' (no dotted version).

The steps

NB: Here notated dotted (apart from 4) but remember that steps 1, 2 and 3 can be danced undotted.

All on the ball of the foot.

Step 1

Bar	Ct	Left	Right	Notes
1	1	STEP		
	a		shuffle	
	2)	
	a		STEP	
3		tap		slightly forwards
	4	SPRING	lift leg	slightly forwards
2	1		STEP	
	a	shuffle		
	2)		
	a	STEP		
3			tap	slightly forwards
	4	lift leg	SPRING	slightly forwards

Repeat twice more

Finish (see below)

Repeat whole step starting R.

Step 2

1	1 a 2 a 3 4	STEP tap STEP	shuffle) STEP	slightly forwards
2	1 2 a 3 a 4	shuffle) STEP	tap STEP tap	slightly forwards slightly forwards

Repeat twice more L R L

Finish. NB HOP into the finish

Repeat whole step starting R

Step 3

1	1 a 2 a 3 4 & a	STEP tap SPRING	shuffle) STEP shuffle)	slightly forwards
2	1 a 2 a 3 4 & a	shuffle) STEP shuffle)	STEP tap SPRING	slightly forwards

Repeat twice more.

Finish

Repeat whole step starting R

Step 4

1	1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and	STEP shuffle) STEP	shuffle) STEP toe tap	slightly back. NB toe not ball.
2	1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and	shuffle) STEP toe tap	STEP shuffle) STEP	slightly back. NB toe not ball.

Repeat twice

Finish

Repeat whole step starting R

NB not dotted rhythm. Some people emphasise using the toe.

Finish

7	1 a 2 a 3 a 4 a	STEP (HOP) STEP	shuffle) STEP shuffle) STEP	steps 1,3,4= STEP, step 2 = HOP
8	1 2 3 4	tap STEP -	touch -	slightly forwards feet together*

* the 'touch' enables/reminds you to start the next step on that foot.

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