

Angus Dances

- Education Pack

Introduction

Circassian Circle	Reel	6x32 Bars
Haymakers Jig	Jig	4x48 Bars
Jacky Tar or Jack-a-Tar	Hornpipe	8x32 Bars
Rory O'More	Jig	8x32 Bars
Highland Schottische		
Schottische Country Dance		
Broun's Reel	Reel	8x32 Bars
La Russe	Reel	4x64 Bars
Lancers		5 figures
La Va	Waltz	

List of tunes played for the dances

- Lesson Plan 1
- Lesson Plan 2
- Lesson Plan 3
- Lesson Plan 4
- Lesson Plan 5
- Lesson Plan 6

Angus Dances

– An introduction to the Education Pack.

The County of Angus is one of the richest in the history and practice of traditional dance and music, and the people of Angus have continued to keep their dance and music alive and vigorous.

The dancing masters or ‘dancies’ who set such high standards of dancing in every village and town in the county in the past would approve of the fact that today’s school children are learning the dances of their own district, with the accepted local variations, to local music. From the glens to the coast, the energetic spirit of the people can be seen and heard as they participate in their cultural heritage.

The dances described in this pack are all part of the local Angus dance heritage and should be seen as an addition to what dancing is already provided for in the schools. The dances were selected both with regards to interesting versions in local tradition and according to age and abilities as given in the 5-14 curriculum. With the instructions, suggested lesson plans and the suitably recorded music, it is hoped that all will have an enjoyable time exploring local the local dance tradition.

The Dances

Circassian Circle is a popular dance of many forms, this one is also known as ‘Circassian Circle Stage Two’ or ‘The Big Circle.’ Circassia is part of the Caucasus region and how its name found its way to Scotland is not known with any certainty.

Haymakers Jig, is another old favorite of the area. It is known as ‘Sir Roger the Coverly in England, and it has come back to us from America in the form of Virginia Reel.

Jacky Tar (Jack-a-Tar, or Jack-o-Tar), a hornpipe we know was taught by some of the Angus ‘dancies’, and was once quite common all over Angus. Jacky Tar is the nickname sometimes given to the sailors of yesteryear, due to their hands being blackened by the use of tar on the old sailing ships.

Rory O’More, a popular jig as danced in Glenesk.

The couple dance *Highland Schottische* is popular all over Scotland with many regional versions, but its use in a Country Dance seems quite unique to Angus. *The Schottische Country Dance* comes from Tarfside in Glenesk.

Broun’s Reel (Broon’s or Brown’s Reel) this dance has a very particular Angus version which differentiate it from the same dance known as Duke of Perth and Pease Strae in other parts of the country.

La Russe or *Forfar Reel* is a dance in a square formation very particular to the Angus area.

The Lancers together with the Quadrilles were at one time one of the highlights at any dance, both are seen less often these days, but many Angus versions of the Lancers are still danced and this one again comes from Glenesk.

Finally in waltz time we find the couple dance *La Va*. A dance originally from Poland. *La Va* is short for *La Varsoviana* and named after Warsaw. The dance is also popular in the Scandinavian countries, a dance most likely introduced by the Angus ‘dancies.’

Tunes for the dances on the ‘Angus Dances’ CD

Circassian Circle

Orig. / Mount Stewart House / Lord Randalls Bride / Drumleys.
(All Trad.)

Haymakers Jig

Orig. / Tight Little Island / Hundred Pipers / Tarry A While.
(All Trad.)

Jacky Tar

Orig. (Trad.) / Donald Clerk of Meigle (Ian Cruickshanks) / Kirks Hornpipe (Trad.) /
Victoria Hornpipe (Trad.)

Rory O’More

Orig. / Bidy of Sligo / Blackthorn Stick / Jackson’s Jig.
(All Trad.)

Highland Schottische / Schottische Country Dance

Orange and Blue / Keel Row / Kafoozalum / What’s A’ Tae Steer.
(All Trad.).

Broun’s Reel

Original Duke of Perth (Trad.) / Bill Sutherland (Adam Rennie) / Caddam Wood
(Cameron/Rennie)

La Russe or Forfar Reel

Orig. (Trad.) / Miss Campbell of Saddell (Trad.) / Polly Stewart (Trad.) / The Bonnie
Dancers (Adam Rennie)

Lancers

The Student’s Lancers Set (popular student’s songs arranged by J. Barrie Panton).

La Va

Tender and True (Linter).

All titles arranged by Ian Cruickshanks.

Musicians:

Ian Cruickshanks, Kirriemuir, on 3-row diatonic accordion.

Jim Sturrock, Forfar, on violin.