**The Laughing Dancer**

40 Bar Strathspey for 5 couples in a longwise set.

**Tune**: Any good Strathspey.

**Such as**: CD - The Irvine Valley Scottish Dance Quartet Volume 3, Track 12. (S5x40)

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| 1 – 12 | 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, couples, dance a reel on their own side round a standing 3rd couple. 1st and 2nd couples, also 4th and 5th couples, start passing right shoulders. ***Note:*** *12 Bar reel*. |  |
| 13 – 16 | 1st and 3rd couples, turn partners right hand, moving down to finish facing 1st corners. 2nd and 4th couples step up on Bars 13-14. |  |
| 17 - 32 | 1st and 3rd couples dance a diagonal right shoulder reel of four with 1st corners. 1st and 3rd couples finish the reel dancing left shoulders around each other to face 2nd corners. 1st and 3rd couples dance a diagonal reel of four with 2nd corners. 1st and 3rd couples finish in 2nd and 4th places respectively on their own sides. | Order  2,1,4,3,5. |
| 33 - 40 | 1st and 4th couples also 3rd and 5th couples dance the **Rose Progression.**  **Rose Progression**:  Bar 33 – 34: 1st Man and 4th Lady set **while** 1st lady and 4th Man, cross right hand to change places. Stay facing out.  Bar 35-36: 1st Man and 4th Lady half turn both hands to face each other **while** 1st lady and 4th Man dance on one place clockwise on the side.  Bar 37-38: 1st Man and 4th Lady pull right shoulders back and cast out through the side to curve into the diagonally opposite corner **while** 1st lady and 4th Man, half turn both hands to face each other.  Bar 39-40: 1st Man and 4th Lady dance on one place clockwise (across dance) **while** 1st lady and 4th Man pull right shoulder back and cast out through side and curve into the diagonally opposite corner.  **Note**: 3rd and 5th couples dance Rose Progression similarly. | Order  2, 4, 1, 5, 3. |
|  | Repeat four more times from new positions. |  |

Devised by George Ferrier

The dance was devised for Ian Lunt to commemorate a major birthday. Ian provides an excellent performance of the sketch “The Laughing Policeman”. In addition, his laugh can be heard resounding on the dance floor while enjoying a dance hence by using poetic licence the title of this dance.