

24a
11 Sir Roger de Coverley Strip the Willow

Tempo 40bars/min

SIR ROGER DE COVERLEY

x2

SIR ROGER DE COVERLEY is the old "English Country Dance", a ballroom version of the folkdance generally known as the Haymakers' Jig throughout Britain, or sometimes "The Maltman" (Scotland). It is in 9/8 time, but versions of the Haymaker can be in 6/8. (Refer to next section under the Haymakers' Jig, also the Virginia Reel and the Irish Haymaker.) Additional comments on tunes that were used in Australia are given on Pg.1 of Vol.1 of Collector's Choice.

The selection and arrangement of the following tunes for this dance depend upon the version of the dance being performed, and/or the number of couples per set. The original Sir Roger de Coverley tune is 3-part, i.e. part A, B and D of the tune given here. Part C has been inserted to bring the tune up to a 4-part jig. The original version played twice through (48 bars) matches once through a 4 couple set without having a Strip the Willow or Serpentine section. This simple form of the dance is very popular, and support tunes will need to be adjusted or grouped to 48 bar multiples. However, if the dance is to include the Serpentine or Strip the Willow section with possibly 6 or 7 couples, then the 4-part tune may be useful. The usual first section of the dance occupies 32 bars and the latter Serpentine section and cast off, another 32 bars. Support tunes can then be in 32 bar multiples. This latter version in 9/8 time is more of historical and display interest, the Virginia Reel or the Irish Haymaker being more popular in practise.

Support Tunes:-

Sir Roger de Coverley: All of the tunes are well suited to fiddle playing; Drops of Brandy, Haymaking and the Foxhunter's Jig are better suited for the diatonic accordeon. It is suggested that 2 or more tunes played at least twice each be used.

However, no special arrangement is recommended because of the variables with respect to the possible number of participants and versions. In practise, it is often difficult to keep sets of mixed ability or experience together. Thus the multiples of tunes need not necessarily be fixed, nor the arrangement elaborate.

Commence and finish with the signature tune (Sir Roger de Coverley) and try to co-ordinate tune changes, ad libbing if need be, with each time through the dance, i.e. take the cue from a good set of dancers.

Strip the Willow: Similar comments apply to the dance "Strip the Willow" and, in this case, delete the Sir Roger de Coverley tune, or re-position it, so that Drops of Brandy is the commencing and finishing tune. "Drops of Brandy" is the signature tune for the English version of this dance, which is known as "Drops of Brandy". The same dance in Scotland is performed to 9/8 Scottish tunes such as "Wood And Married An A" and "I Hae A Wife O' My Ain", although these days 6/8 Scottish jigs are often preferred. In this case refer to the tunes for a 6/8 Strip the Willow. (Pg. 32)

English, Scottish and Irish 9/8 tunes have been given here. As both Sir Roger de Coverley in its various forms and the Strip the Willow were widely danced throughout Britain, it would be appropriate to have a balanced mixture of these tunes in any arrangement.