

Brimfield (“Maiden’s Delight”)

The set consists of four dancers in a single line, #1 facing #2 and #3 facing #4, #2 and #3 are back to back. Leave a couple meters of space between #2 and #3; you’ll need it.

Music: “Not For Joes”. Format: A AB AB2 AB2 AB A.

Dance structure: Once to yourself; sticking; figure eight; sticking; star; sticking; swing; sticking; figure eight; sticking.

Stepping: Single stepping, left foot lead.

Sticking (A music): Short sticks, one per dancer. #2 and #3 hold sticks, using both hands, pointing upward and outward with one end braced against the midriff. This should have an obvious symbolism in terms of Jungian archetypes. Or something like that. #1 and #3 do all the work: 2-handed clashes, right to left and then left to right, one clash per beat (16 clashes total per A music). No stepping. For last sticking, slow down the music and ham it up with some extremely, one might say gratuitously, violent sticking which gradually speeds up. Omit last stick clash; instead raise stick and shout “Hoy!”

Figure eight (B music): #2 and #3 step in place. #1 passes #2 by the right shoulder, goes between #2 and #3, around #3, back between #2 and #3, and around #2 back to place. #4 follows a similar track, starting by passing left shoulders with #3. #1 goes through the center before #3 on both passes.

Swing (B music twice): #1 and #2 take sticks in left hands, approach as if to pass right shoulders, but put right arms across each other’s bellies and swing around. #3 and #4 do likewise. At the end of a full B music switch sticks to right hands and partners to left hands, and unswing. End up back in line.

(You could come out of this figure with #2 and #3 at the ends of the set, and #1 and #4 in the middle, for a little role reversal. I figure getting back to place is enough for my tiny mind to handle without having to keep track of where “back to place” keeps changing to.)

Star (B music twice): Hold sticks in left hands. #2 and #3 take a step or two backward and to the left while #1 and #4 come forward and to the left; grab right hands in a hands-across star. Dance the star around for a full B music, then turn around, put sticks in right hands, and dance a left-hands-across star back. End up back in line.