

## Steppy Downs

(v1 (draft 4) – 1/13/2024)

An English Country Dance by Renée Camus ©November 21, 2023

Tune: *Steppy Downs Road*, by Sam Sweeney, 2020

Duple-minor longways

A

Intermediate

AAB (4,4,8) ad lib

3/2

♩ = 96 (smooth and flowy)

|    |     |   |
|----|-----|---|
| A1 | 1-2 | Partners back to back.  |
|    | 3-4 | Neighbors double Mad Robin CW (along the lines).  |
| A2 | 1-2 | Neighbors back to back.   |
|    | 3-4 | Partners double Mad Robin CW (across the set).  |
| B  | 1   | Take hands in a ring and balance in and out.*   |
|    | 2   | Neighbors roll away along the line, changing places (1 <sup>st</sup> corners passing in front).   |
|    | 3   | Take hands in a ring and balance in and out.*   |
|    | 4   | Partners roll away across the set, changing places (current 2 <sup>nd</sup> corners passing in front). All end progressed and crossed over. |
|    | 5-6 | Partners back to back (R-shoulder).   |
|    | 7-8 | Partners Hole in the Wall cross.  |

### Teaching notes:

This dance is an exercise in orientation: which way you're facing vs which way you're moving, and smoothing out the transitions between the two. ☺

- It may help to remember that everything in the dance moves clockwise: the back to backs (all R-shoulder), the mad robins, even the roll aways are clockwise.
- \*B 1 and 3: This balance is a step forward on count 1 (with a bent knee), and step back on count 2, in a down-up motion matching the accent in the music (like a "rock-step").
- B 2 and 4: For the roll aways, positionally it's the 1<sup>st</sup> corners then the 2<sup>nd</sup> corners passing in front; the same people pass in front both times.

While this dance was written positionally, with the intent that people dance both roles, some partners may find it easier to change places at the end of the set, so they remain a first corner or second corner throughout the whole dance.

Thanks to Sam Sweeney for his enthusiastic permission to use this beautiful tune, and to Jon Berger for letting me know about it. ☺