

Feder Mikkel

Source Danish folk dance collection, 'Sving Egen!' The dance name translates as Father Michael.

Traditional Context In the original version only the active couple does the right hand turn and the bottom couple of the set is active, i.e. they lead the 'peeling the banana' figure, and progress *up* the set.

Instruments in Recording Fiddle, nylon guitar, ukulele, mandolins, snare drum, fiddles.

Formation Longways set of five or six couples, hands joined in side lines.

Easy Version

- A 1-8 Both lines advance 3 steps towards the other (R L R), stamp L on beat 4 then retire to place (L R L close).
9-16 Repeat.
- B 1-8 Top couple each lead their own side line in sideways gallop step as follows - diverge away from partner; pass through bottom place of the set, continue sideways up the line of the set.
9-16 Top couple complete the 'peel the banana' cast, pulling their own side line sideways up the set to place.
- B 1-8 Top couple face down set, give closest hand and walk 8 steps to then bottom of the set.
9-16 Same couple face each other, give right hand in thumb hold, turn once around, release hands, retire backwards to new place, join on the end of the line.

Advanced Version

- A 1-6 Both lines advance 3 steps towards the other (R L R), stamp L on beat 4, then retire to place (L R L close).
9-16 Repeat.
- B 1-8 The bottom couple each lead their own side line in sideways gallop step as follows - diverge away from partner, pass through top place of the set, continue sideways down the line of the set.
9-16 The bottom couple complete this 'peel the banana' cast pulling their own side line sideways down the set to place.
- B 1-8 Bottom couple face up the set, give closest hand and walk 8 steps to top of the set.
9-16 All give right hand in thumb hold to partners, turn once around, release hands, retire backwards to place.

Educational Context

- Variations on dance conventions such as the bottom couple being active help maintain interest for experienced dancers, but when introducing children to set dancing it is confusing if we do not begin by establishing the conventions. The 'peeling the banana' figure is an excellent for introducing the 'cast off'. The music is in A B B form.
- We have matched the Danish signature tune with a Hungarian 'Ugros' tune with the same ABB form.

