

## Tara Reel

The Tara Reel is a WIDA ceili dance choreographed by WIDA in 2010. As the name suggests, the dance is danced to reel music. The team is to be assembled as follows:

(1/tops/leading couple) B A (4/opposite sides) G F (3/leading sides) H E C D (2/opposite couple)

The team is to be set up as normal in relation to the position of the musician (see Ar Rinncide Foirne).

1. Introduction: Ring

Dance a circle to the right and back, with 7s (sidestep) and two short 3s. When you do the two short 3's in bars 3+4, lower your arms and raise them again. Repeat the circle to the left and back. *(16 bars)* 

2. Body: The Monk's Tapestry

Change places with corner (i.e. gents go to the left, ladies to the right) with one 7 (sidestep). Then, change places with the next person, going in the same direction again, with one 7 (sidestep).

From the new positions, the gents who are <u>now</u> in the top gents position change places with 2 promenade steps, crossing left shoulder, then the gents in side gent position cross over left shoulder. Meanwhile everybody else is dancing in place (on the spot).

Change places with the corner and the next person again (gents go to the left, ladies to the right – both times using sevens (sidestep)). From the new positions, the ladies in the top lady position cross over their right shoulders, then the ladies on the sides do the same.

This should bring everybody back to their original positions. Face your partner at the end.

(16 bars)

3. Body: Stones

Take both hands with partner, uncrossed, and make a half turn to the left with one seven (lady and gent stand in each other's original positions). Make a half-turn back to the right with one seven (lady and gent back to own respective positions). Gents dance one place inside the set (anti-clockwise, ie. dance on to next partner in the direction they are facing) with 2 Promenade Steps, then ladies dance on one place inside the set (clockwise) with 2 Promenade Steps. Stay facing your

new partner.(8 bars)

4. Body: Full Chain Variation

While the ladies dance on the spot (promenade step), gents dance forward anticlockwise using promenade step, giving right and left hand alternatively to the ladies they dance past (starting with right hand, it's right left right left). They stay in front of the lady to whom they give the last left hand – which is back at the gent's original position. The ladies repeat this movement, dancing clockwise and starting by giving their right hand to person whose left hand they were last holding. The gents dance on the spot, until the ladies are back in their own original positions.(*16 bars*)

5. Body: St. Brigid's Cross

<u>Gents</u>: Sidestep into the centre, dance straight out to the position you are facing (one place to the right from the original position) with promenade step, dance 2 bars of promenade step on the spot, still facing out, and then change places with the lady on your left with a sidestep (face out while doing this, face this lady at the end).

Ladies: Dance 2 Promenade steps to the next Lady's position clockwise, dance one seven (sidestep) into the centre, dance 2 promenade steps out to the position you are facing, change places with the gent on your right with one seven (sidestep) (face out while doing this, face this gent at the end).

<u>All</u>: Then, turn the person you are facing 1 ¼ times with the right hand. The ladies dance left hands across in the centre halfway round while the gents dance on to the next position clockwise, turn your partner 1 ¼ times with the right hand in original positions. Keep hold of that hand, everybody face in. *(16 bars)* 

6. Body: Back-to-back Variation

Bars 1 to 4 are as in the Back to back (see e.g. Cross Reel in Ar Rinncide Fiorne for reference), but drop all hands on bar 4. Then:

- The top/leading and opposite top/leading gents dance back to their original positions and then dance in place (promenade step).

- The two side gents (leading & opposite sides) (facing each other in the centre) turn each other with the right hand and dance back to their original places (promenade step).

- The ladies turn the lady they are facing in the circle with the right hand once and dance back to their original places (promenade step).

The gents should be back in their places before the ladies. (8 bars)

7. <u>1st Figure:</u> Telescope:

Everybody turn both hands, sides once round and in their positions, tops <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> round, moving into line with the sides. After the turn the order of couples from left to right, as seen from the judges position, is: Leading Sides, Leading Tops, Opposite Tops, Opposite Sides. The gents of the leading tops and the opposite sides couples have their backs to the judge. (4 bars)

From this position dance the Telescope (see Gates of Derry in Ar Rinncide Fiorne for reference) until dancers are back to the positions that they are in at the end of the first four bars, i.e. dance continuous 7s (continuous sidestep) until you are at one end of the line, then do 2 short threes. Dancers always take 2 bars to exchange places

with the couple next to them, alternately passing through the centre or passing on the outside. To start the telescope, the leading tops and leading sides exchange places as do the opposite tops and opposite sides. The leading tops and opposite sides go through the centre first. *(16 bars)* 

Turn your partner with both hands & in a clockwise direction (i.e. turn in direction of left shoulder) back to original positions. (4 bars)

- 8. Repeat the body (steps 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 of this notation)
- 9. 2nd Figure (unnamed)

Leading tops turn once round with the right hand, then dance out between the side couple nearest to their respective original positions (i.e. the lady between the opposite sides couple, the gent between the leading sides couple). They dance towards the opposite tops and dance a figure of 8 around the opposite tops, starting by crossing between them (the lady passes through the gap first both times. Lady dances round the opposite tops lady first and then around the opposite tops gent, the gent dances round the opposite tops gent first and then round the opposite tops lady). They then dance out between the side couple furthest away from their original position (i.e. the lady between the leading sides couple, the gent between the opposite sides couple), dance towards their original position and turn their partner 1 ½ times with the right hand to finish in their original positions. All of the second figure is danced with promenade step. The couples that are danced around/in between stand (i.e. do not dance.) (16 bars)

The figure is then repeated by opposite tops, leading sides and opposite sides.

10. Finish: Ring (see Introduction)