Pretty Face

A 40 bar jig for 3 couples
by Sue Hall & Terry Glasspool

1– 4  First couple set then cross down (without hands) to end in second place facing down. Second couple steps up on bars 3 and 4.

5– 8  First and third couples dance half rights and lefts giving right hands on the side then left hands to partner across the dance. End with a polite turn in the middle of the dance to finish with near hands joined, first couple facing up, third couple down.

9–16 Third and first couples dance a "set and half rondel."
   9–10  They set, facing up and down.
   11–14 Third couple dances down under the arch made by first couple dancing up. They cross to the opposite side (women passing front of their partner) and curve round to meet on the sides of the dance and join near hands. (This is the first three bars of the strathspey rondel.)
   15–16 They set, facing across the dance.

17–24 Joining hands on the sides, second and first couples dance a "set and half rondel."
   17–18  They set, facing across the dance.
   19–22 They cross, first man and second woman making an arch for their partners. Passing the women in front, first couple dances up to join near hands with partner facing down, while second couple dances down to join near hands and face up. (This is the second three bars of the strathspey rondel.)
   23–24 They set, facing up and down.

25–28 First and second women turn 1½ with left hands while their partners pull back right shoulders to dance clockwise, halfway around the women. Dancers finish in a balance line up and down the dance, the two women retaining left hands with each other and joining right hands with their partner.

29–32 Second and first couples balance then turn partner ¾ with right hand.
First couple finishes in the middle of the dance with man the facing down, the woman up, while second couple finishes by dancing out to first place on own side.

33–40 First couple dances a half figure eight around their partner's second corner to end in second place on own side. Taking hands on the side, all advance and retire.

Repeat, having passed a couple.
Music:

- A lively jig.
- For example: "Middling, Thank You" by Fiddlers Three Plus Two on Scottish Dance Favourites Volume 1, RSCDS, RSCDS CD-3.

Notes:

- During the two "set and half rondels," the first man always arches.
- Because the arches in bars 19-20 are of mixed gender, passing the women in front felt more natural than the rule used in the strathspey rondel.

For Kay Munn, in grateful appreciation of the joy and support she has given to our dance community. (Not to mention her fantastic parties.) And, as she is constantly reminding us whenever she does something particularly clever or creative, she is "not just a pretty face."

This dance has been published in my second collection, An Itch to Dance.

All comments are welcome. Please contact us at: tglasspool@stny.rr.com