

A Gathering of Friends
An easy dance for everyone introducing basic figures
by Anthea Macdonald, 2006

4x32 jig, danced in a longways 4-cpl set

Suggested music: Stoner House, from Boston Anniversary 50th CD

Bars

- 1 - 4 All taking hands on the sides, advance & retire
- 5 - 8 Right hands across at top and bottom (1s&2s, 3s&4s)
- 9 - 12 All advance and retire
- 13 - 16 Left hands across at top and bottom
- 17 - 24 All dance down and back. Couples 2, 3 and 4 return to the sidelines, Cpl 1 finish at top, ready to...
- 25 - 28 First cpl cast to 4th place. Cpls 2, 3, 4 step up, taking hands on the sidelines, on 27-28 (Last two bars of phrase, just as 1st cpl reach the bottom of the set)
- 29 - 32 All turn partners once round by the right hand.

I sometimes use this as a warm-up dance (first two times, we walk, then last two we use skipchange).

This dance is easily modified for 2-5 cpls:

For two: hands across with both cpls. On the down and back: both cpls return to sidelines. First cpl dance in, and then cast (25-28) to second place as twos step up.

For three: twos are active in both hands across. Ones cast as for 4-cpl version.

For five: threes are anchors. They don't dance hands across at top and bottom. All 5 cpls dance down and back. First cpl has a little farther to go to get to the bottom!

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