

Elma's Two Step

Australia, Vic, Wedderburn

Rhythm: Two Step
Galopede

Book: "The Waltz, the Polka and All Kinds of Dance Music", p170, Peter Ellis, 2007

Source: collected from Elma Ross and the Wedderburn Oldtimers
collected by Peter Ellis

Notes: a variation of the Old Timers Two Step, this version good for the Galopede
c.f. The Oldtimers Twostep
Hi Ray and Dave,

You may recall the attached Adelaide Race Dance in Trad & Now in 2010. I think it is a great dance and it provides the use of galop tunes which have tended to miss out in the Australian tradition. Part of the problem was the dance (Galop) itself had ceased to be popular by the first decade of the 20thC so had disappeared before aural tunes had survived for the collector's. The Two Steps which derived from the Galop did survive, but the Collectors ignored them because of an association with the modern Foxtrot or Quickstep.

I've assemble some really good galop tunes from old tune books, mainly a series called "Daisy's" which was piano dance music for children. Daisy Sutton of Wedderburn co-incidentally had some of them. It is possible some of these could have moved into the aural tradition, although they have either not been found or recognised and linked to these.

Thought I could do Adelaide Race Day next year at Bundanoon, or possibly even this year (2103) at Goulburn. Also, the Oldtimers Two Step is in galop style and a 40 bar tune, I've adjusted the dance to 40 bars to include a swing which the original dance didn't have, yet I feel a dance such as this would have had a swing, had it been in the aural tradition.

See what you think, more tunes on the way, in batches because of the MB. Peter.

They are all 40 bar tunes to suit my adaptation of the dance, if for any reason you wanted 32 bar tunes, leave the first line out, that is a tag I put in using the main strain of a verse. So the remaining 4 lines are the main tune section.

Oldtimers Two Step is a natural 40 bar collected tune from the playing of three of the Oldtimers, Daisy Sutton, Jack Condon and Lionel Collison. This is the tune version known in "the bush", that is districts around Wedderburn. However if you needed a 32 bar version then Elma Ross's is the one to use, obviously same tune and in fact Elma's coincides with a tune from Jean Murphy of Mitta Mitta, except she has a second part in Eb. Elma's is a great tune for Galopede Country Dance (also known as La Galopede) and could be used for any "set tune" such as in Lancers or Alberts, as well as of course for the Two Step.