

MOIRREY NY CAINLE

This dance was traditionally performed at Candlemas (2nd February) and the lighted candles were carried into church and blessed by the priest. The dance is done with four couples and an extra woman, 'Moirrey', who carries a lighted candle while each man carries an unlighted candle.

J. 112

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the dance. The top staff is marked with a circled 'A' and the bottom with a circled 'B'. Both staves are in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The top staff has a treble clef and the bottom a bass clef. Chord symbols are written above the notes: D, Em, D, G, D, Em, A, G, D on the top staff; and A, D, G, D, A, D, Em, A, G, D on the bottom staff.

	Music	Movements
A1 Bars	1-8	Partners join R hands, men hold candles in L hands. 'Moirrey' leads couples round in a clockwise circle in slipping skip step, then stands while the couples form a circle around her.
B1 Bars	1-4	Each man faces centre and hands his partner round to face him so that she has her back to 'Moirrey'. Couples honour without losing hands, then men raise hands high while women pivot underneath.
	5-8	Both balance R and L, honour again, and loose hands.
A2 Bars	1-8	In the same positions (men facing in, women out), women balance and spin twice while men dance a feather step R and spin R, then a feather step L and spin L.
B2 Bars	1-8	All dance one M.r.s. forward and pivot spin R, then one M.r.s. starting left foot and pivot spin L. This brings the men's circle inside the women who finish their last spin facing the centre and join hands.
A3 Bars	1-8	Women balance (Mheallea type) in place while men go round 'Moirrey' counter clockwise in slow walking step each lighting his candle from hers.
B3 Bars	1-4	Women let go of hands and stand in place while men take four slow walking steps to their partners and take womans R hand, holding the lighted candle high in their L hands.
	5-8	Both balance R and L, then honour.
A4 Bars	1-8	'Moirrey' leads couples in slipping skip step in a circle clockwise to finish in a straight line. 'Moirrey' turns to face the line.
B4 Bar	1	1st couple honour to 'Moirrey' as music slows, then step away to the left.
	2	2nd couple honour and step R.
	3	3rd couple honour and step L.
	4	4th couple honour and step R.
	5-8	'Moirrey' dances slipping skip step down between the couples who file in behind her in order (i.e. 1st couple followed by 2nd couple, etc.).
A5 Bars	1-8	'Moirrey' leads the couples off in slipping skip step.