

# Singing Square Dance Collection Part 1

These are my favorites

- |     |                                   |        |
|-----|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 1,2 | Because, Just Because             | (G)    |
| 3   | Crooked Stovepipe                 | (G)    |
| 4   | Goodbye My Lady Love              | (Bm/D) |
| 5   | if You Knew Susie                 | (G)    |
| 6   | My Little Girl                    | (G)    |
| 7   | On the Trail of the Lonesome Pine | (G)    |
| 8   | Redwing                           | (C)    |

One night stand material

- |    |                  |     |
|----|------------------|-----|
| 9  | Barnacle Bill    | (C) |
| 10 | Solomon Levi     | (C) |
| 11 | Uptown, Downtown | (C) |

## **Because, Just Because** (G)

Format: introduction, Verses #1 thru #4 with chorus every time, Verse #5, Ending  
(11 times thru the tune plus 2 Tags)

### --> INTRODUCTION :

- A1: Well it's everybody bow to your partner, and you bow to the corner just as well {back to the corner},  
A2: Allemande left your corner and you balance to your own,  
it's grand right and left you will roam.  
B1: Well it's reverse when you meet your partner,  
grand old right and left the other way back and then -  
B2: When you're home swing your own, everybody swing at home, Because, just Because .

### --> VERSE # 1 (and #2, #3, #4) with a chorus every time: {head Ladies chain}

- A1: Well the two Head Ladies chain right on over,  
and you chain those ladies right back home again. {sides your turn}  
A2: The side two Ladies chain right on over,  
and you chain those Ladies right back home again {back to the corner.}  
B1: Allemande left your corner and you allemande right your own,  
Swing that corner round and round and round,  
B2: And you promenade the ring, and everybody sing,  
Because, just Because. [with the corner]  
A1: Now you all do-si-do with that new corner,  
turn a right hand go twice around your own .. make it twice!.  
A2: You allemande left with the one that you just left,  
and you do-si-do back at home {back to the corner}  
B1: Allemande left your corner and you balance to your own,  
it's grand old right and left you will roam,  
B2: When you meet with that one, you promenade and have some fun,  
Because, just Because.

--> VERSE # 2: Heads and then Sides right and left thru.

--> VERSE # 3: Heads star right and then left, Sides star left and then right.

--> VERSE # 4: Heads and then Sides promenade around the inside of the set.

### --> VERSE # 5 and Ending : {Heads sashay}

- A1: Well the head two couples sashay right over - Gents go back to back,  
and you sashay right back home again {sides your turn}  
A2: The side two couples sashay right over,  
and you sashay right back home again {back to the corner}  
B1: Allemande left your corner and you balance to your own,  
swing your partners round and round and round.  
B2: And you promenade the ring, and everybody sing,  
Because, just Because.  
A1: Well it's everybody bow to the corner, and you bow to the one right there at home.....  
A2: allemande left with the one that you just left,  
you do-si-do right there at home {back to the corner}  
B1: Allemande left your corner and you balance partners all -  
it's grand old right and left go round the hall,  
B2: When you meet with your own, you promenade and head for home,  
Because just because, Swing your partner,  
2 Tags: Because, Just Because, keep on swinging, Because, Just Because!

**Notes:** This dance has a lot of history. Back in the mid-20th century, the ladies chain was used in each verse of the dance. By the time I learned the dance in the late 1970s (primarily from Tod Whittemore, who learned it from

Duke Miller), the figures had evolved into the ladies chain, the right and left thru, the stars, and the sashay for the 4 verses. I always thought that the sashay was the most exciting part and was disappointed no to be able do with my partner, so I changed verse 4 to the inside promenade, and used the sashay for an added 5th verse that had no partner change.

Since this is pretty much a glossary dance, I often do it as the 2nd dance of a set with little or no teaching. The only part that might need to be taught is the chorus that comes after every verse.

And there are lots of possible alternative lyrics for parts of this dance:

Make it twice !  
Ain't that nice !  
Roger Weiss !  
fried rice !  
Your very own !

Allemande left your corner and balance to your own - it's grand old right and left you will roam  
Allemande left your corner and balance partners all - its grand old right and left go 'round the hall

when you meet with your own you promenade and head for home  
when you meet with that one you promenade and have some fun  
when halfway around you meet then you promenade your sweet  
when you meet that man or meet that maid then everybody promenade

## **Crooked Stovepipe** (G)

Format: Intro, H & then S Gents, Break, H & then S Ladies, Break, All Ladies, All Gents  
(9 X thru the tune)

### **-->VERSE:**

- A1: Head Gents - to the center - you bow - and you come back out,  
Into the center, and there you swing, it's six hands around in a great big ring.
- A2: It's six hands round them while they swing, when you get back home, swing your own,  
Swing your partner there at home, look for the corner.
- B1: And it's allemande left your corner, allemande right your own,  
Allemande left the corner, and do si do your own.
- B2: Don't worry, don't hurry, you've got time to swing.

### **-->SAMPLE INTRODUCTION :**

- A1 : Bow to your partner, swing your partner.
- A2 : Bow to your corner, swing your corner (partner, again).
- B1 : Circle left, circle right.
- B2 : Promenade partner.

### **-->SAMPLE BREAK:**

- A1 : Circle left (right), circle right (left).
- A2 : Do si do corner (partner), do si do partner (corner).
- B1 : Balance and swing partner (corner).
- B2 : (Run home and) Promenade partner.

**Notes:** Another old traditional dance that I think of as a singing call, but may not be in the strictest sense. I mostly learned this from Tod Whittemore, and tacked on the last two verses where the Gents and then the Ladies do a basket swing in the center.

**Goodbye My Lady Love, Goodbye** (Bm to D)  
(Break as intro, 2 Verses, Break, 2 Verses, Break)

--> **VERSE :**

- A1: Gents ... Star right, around you go,  
It's partner left, oh please don't go.
- A2: Ladies ... Star right, around the square,  
It's partner left, then leave him there.
- B1: And then you Swing with that corner guy, you've got a roving eye,  
Hurt me, refuse me, you'll be sorry when you loose me.  
(alt - Hurt me, refuse me, you'll be sorry when I die.)
- B2: Go and he'll walk you home, I always knew you'd roam,  
Goodbye my Lady love, goodbye.

--> **INTRODUCTION AND BREAK :**

- A1: It's Corner left ... then weave around,  
You're leaving me ... I'm leaving town ... gypsy !
- A2: Looook ... me in the eye ,  
Your corner too, it makes me cry.
- B1: And then you swing with me, Lady love, my little turtle dove,  
You are the Idol and darling of my heart.
- B2: But now let's walk home my honey bee, someday return to me,  
Swing me, my Lady love goodbye.

**Notes: Not much choreography here, but some wonderfully trashy lyrics and an interesting tune. Debbie Gray put this together some decades ago. Lisa Greenleaf and I have been singing this as a duet at the Concord Scout House New Years Eve dance for some years now - think of it as a sort of game of musical chicken.**

## **If You Knew Suzie (G)**

(Intro, Heads,Heads, Break, Sides, Sides, Break).

### **--> VERSE :**

- A1: Heads .. bow to Sue, then do that right and left thru,  
Turn 'em twice around, sides you right and left too.
- A2: Four Ladies chain, three quarters round,  
Take that Gal, put her on your right, all join hands and circle left now,
- B1: Half way around, then your corners do-si-do,  
Come back and swing, swing a new Lady, you swing her high and low.
- B2: And then you .. promenade with Suzie now, go home with your Suzie,  
Singing .... Oh, Oh what a Gal !

### **--> ALTERNATE VERSE parts :**

- A2: All four Ladies chain, it's a full three quarters chain,  
All join your hands and circle left, go round the lane.
- B1: Then do-si-do your corners, and swing with your own,  
Swing that Lady round and round, and Promenade her right on home.

### **--> INTRODUCTION & BREAK :**

- A1: Join hands with your Suzie, you circle left with Suzie,  
You circle right, go the other way back.
- A2: You swing so classy now, with your fair lassie now,  
(Alt : You swing with your Suzie, until you're woozy)  
Allemande left with your old left hand, partner right for a right and left grand.
- B1: Now here comes Miss Lucy, and there goes Cousin Kate,  
Then you meet your Suzie, and promenade 'till you get straight.
- B2: Promenade with your Suzie, when you're home swing your Suzie,  
Singing .... Oh, Oh what a Gal !

**Notes: I learned this from Ralph Sweet at one of the early Ralph Page Legacy weekends.**

## **My Little Girl**

(G) 02/21/88

(Intro, Heads, Sides, then All - Heads chain in A2, Sides in B1, Grand chain in B2)

### **--> INTRO :**

A1: Now you bow to your partner, to the corner lady too  
(complete with A2, B1, and B2 of chorus)

### **--> VERSE :**

A1: Heads- You promenade around the outside, around the outside of the ring.

A2: Head ladies chain ... right down the center, and then you chain them back again  
(To the right, to the right !)

B1: Head ladies chain ... to the right hand lady, and then you chain them back again  
(To the left now !).

B2: Head ladies chain ... to the left hand lady, and then you chain them back again.

### **--> CHORUS EVERY TIME :**

A1: Do si do all round your corner, come back home and swing your own.

A2: Allemande left your corner, and you balance to your own,  
Now it's a grand right and left you will roam.

B1: When you meet, you promenade your sweet, you promenade her right back home.

B2: You swing that one, where you begun, to the tune of my little girl.

**Notes: This was a commonly called square when I started dancing. The verses were originally called for each couple in turn. I changed it so first the head couples do the figure, then the side couples, and then all four couples do the figure with a ladies grand chain in B2.**

## **On the Trail of the Lonesome Pine** (G) 02/21/88

(Intro, Heads, Heads, Break, Sides, Sides, Break)

(alt: Intro, Head Gents, Head Ladies, Break, Side Gents, Side Ladies, Break)

### **--> VERSE :**

- A1: Head Gents take your corner to the center and back,  
Same four circle left, go round the track.
- A2: Left hand star until you're home and then a right hand round your own,  
allemande left your corner, and you go back home.
- B1: Do si do, and then your corner you swing,  
you swing her, you promenade her and sing.
- B2: In the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia,  
On the trail of the lonesome pine.

### **--> INTRODUCTION:**

- A1: Well you bow to your partner and your corner as well,  
join your hands and circle left around the track.
- A2, B1, B2: Same as Break

### **--> BREAK :**

- A1: You do-si-do the corner, and you bow down to your own,  
join your hands and circle left around the track.
- A2: Allemande left your corner and you weave the ring,  
you weave it in and out until you get right back.
- B1: Do si do and then this one you will swing,  
you swing her, you promenade her and sing.
- B2: In the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia,  
On the trail of the lonesome pine.

**Notes:** The original name of this dance is "Gents and Corners" and was written by Ralph Page in the mid-20th century and later set as a singing call, probably some time in the 1950s. This dance was widely done when I started dancing.



## **Redwing** (C)

(Introduction, Verses for couple 1 & then 2, Break, Verses for couple 3 & then 4, Ending)

### **--> INTRODUCTION :**

- A1: Everybody bow to your partner, and to your corners all,  
All join hands in a great big ring, and circle left go round the hall,  
A2: You circle right, go the other way back, and when you get back home,  
You take that pretty girl in your arms and swing her round and round.  
B1 & B2: Same as B1 & B2 in the verse

### **--> VERSE :**

- A1: First couple to the right and you circle half, and the inside couple arch,  
and it's dip and dive away you go with the insides high and the outsides low.  
A2: You'll keep it smooth I know, it's over and below,  
you duck on thru to the next old two and circle half way round.  
A1: And it's on to the last and you circle half, and the inside couple arch,  
it's first you dip and then you dive, well here's a ten spot, there's a five .  
A2: Hurry up, let's go, it's over and below,  
then you all run home and swing your own, yes everybody swing.  
B1: And you swing with ... your pretty Redwing, you serenade her, you promenade her home.  
B2: Yes you all promenade your pretty Redwing, while the moon is shining, way up above.

### **---> BREAK and ENDING :**

- A1: You allemande left your corner, and you balance partners all,  
it's a grand old right and left now, keep walking all around the hall,  
A2: You pass your partner right on by, and when you get back home,  
you take that pretty girl in your arms and swing her round and round.  
B1 & B2: Same as B1 & B2 in the verse

**Notes: The dance is "Dip and Dive six" I remember that Tony Saletan and Sarah Gregory Smith both used to do it.**

**Barnacle Bill (D)**  
(Intro, 4 figures, ending)

**--> INTRODUCTION**

--> (in slow 3/4 time)

A1 : Now you battle to your partners all, and you bound to the corner too,  
do-si-do your partners all, do-si- your corners too.

--> (Pause, then in fast 6/8 time)

B1 : Then you swing your partners one and all, said Barnacle Bill the sailor,  
Swing em short and swing em tall, said Barnacle Bill the sailor.

C1 : Promenade and away you go, with the right foot high and the left foot low,  
Step it up lively now don't be slow, said Barnacle Bill the sailor.

**--> FIGURE**

--> (pause, then in slow 3/4 time)

A1 : Now the two head ladies cross, and the side two do the same,  
Honors to the one you lost, honors to your own sweet Jane.

--> (Pause, then in fast 6/8 time)

B1 : Then ... you swing your corner round and round, said Barnacle Bill the sailor,  
Swing em up and swing em down, said Barnacle Bill the sailor.

C1 : Promenade and away you go, with the right foot high and the left foot low,  
Step it up lively now don't be slow, said Barnacle Bill the sailor.

**--> ENDING**

--> (pause, then in slow 3/4 time)

A1 : Do-si-do your Corners all, do-si-do your partners too,  
Allemande left your corners all, right hand to your partner too.

--> (Pause, then in fast 6/8 time)

B1 : Grand right and left around you go, said Barnacle Bill the sailor  
Hand over hand and don't be slow, said Barnacle Bill the sailor

C1 : Promenade around the hall, back to place and don't you fall,  
'Cause that's the end of the favorite call, of Barnacle Bill the sailor.

**Notes: I learned this from Chip Hendrickson's call book - I already knew the tune from my youth as a ribald folk song. It's great for 1 night stands, and can be dramatically hilarious. I have done it at a few public dance, to wildly mixed reviews**

## **Solomon Levi (G)**

Order : Intro, couples 1 -> 4, heads, sides, all, short ending

### **--> INTRODUCTION :**

- A1: Everyone bow to your partner, and bow to your corners all,  
all join hands and circle left, you circle round the hall.
- A2: Well you circle right, go the other way back, and when you get back home,  
You take your partner with you, and you promenade around.
- B1: Singing ... Oh Solomon Levi, ya da da da da da da.  
Oh Mister Levi, ya da da da da da da.

### **--> FIGURE :**

- A1: Well now, the first old couple separate, around the outside track,  
You pass your partner over there, and meet em coming back.
- A2: Your walk right by your partner, and bow to your corners all,  
turn around and swing your own, and promenade the hall.
- B1: Singing ... Oh Solomon Levi, ya da da da da da da.  
Oh Mister Levi, ya da da da da da da.

### **--> ENDING :**

- A1: All join hands and circle left, you circle round the track,  
Circle right, go the other way round, and when you're get right back.
- A2: It's honor to your partners, and to your corners all,  
Turn around and thank the band, for thats the end of the call.

**Notes: 1 night stand material. I learned it from Sarah Gregory Smith.**

## **Uptown, Downtown (tune: Golden Slippers in G)**

Order : Intro, couples 1, 2, 3, 4, ending

### **--> INTRODUCTION and ending :**

- A1: Everybody bow to your partner, and bow to your corners one and all,  
all join hands and circle left, you circle left go 'round the hall.
- A2: Circle right, go the other way back, and when you get right back to home,  
You do-si-do your partner, it's back to back now with your own.
- B1: Then you do-si-do your corners all, and come back home and swing your tah  
Swing your partner round and round, promenade go 'round the town.
- B2: Singing oh those golden slippers, oh those golden slippers,  
Golden slippers I'm going to wear on the golden street.

### **--> FIGURE :**

- A1: The first old couple you go uptown and bring that other couple down,  
Bring them right back home with you, and take them back now when you're through.
- A2: Split those two go around the square and when you meet your partner there,  
it's back-to-back around you go, you do a little do-si-do.
- B1: Then you do-si-do your corners all, come back home and swing your tah  
Swing your partner round and round, promenade go 'round the town.
- B2: Singing oh those golden slippers, oh those golden slippers,  
Golden slippers I'm going to wear on the golden street.

**Notes: 1 night stand material. I learned it from Tod Whittemore.**