

TSDL245

**CHEVIOT BARN DANCE
THE CHEVIOT RANTERS**

English Country Dance Music
Played by

Bryce Anderson	Accordion
Jack Thompson	Fiddle
Jock Wilson	Drums
Phil Sutherland	Double bass
George Mitchell	Piano

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BARN
DANCE**



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Cheviot Barn Dance is the third recording of The Cheviot Ranters Country Dance Band on Topic. As with their previous records *The Sound of the Cheviots* (12TS214) and *The Cheviot Hills* (12TS222) it is a programme of old time and country dances. The Cheviot Ranters are arguably the most distinguished and authentic of the English folk dance bands and grew out of the monthly meetings of the Northumbrian Pipers' Society. It was formed in 1955, and played first of all at local socials, barn dances and such, mostly in Northumberland and Durham. Within a year The Cheviot Ranters had established themselves as a prominent barn dance band on radio and television. The band has an enormous repertory, not only of standard folk dance tunes but also of lesser-known melodies by local north-eastern composers; moreover, they play a number of their own compositions. Comprised as it is of folk musicians of enormous practical experience in the handling of traditional tunes for dancing, the group offers a reliable presentation of the style, form and tempo proper to the English community folk dance.

1. DASHING WHITE SERGEANT: Original; Rakes of Mallow; Catherine's Reel
2. CALL OF THE PIPES: Barren Rocks of Aden; Sweet Maid of Glendaruch; The Earl of Mansfield
3. NOTTINGHAM SWING: Marquis o' Lorne; Showman's Fancy; Beggar Boy
4. MILITARY TWO STEP: I do like to be beside the seaside; Here we are again; Mademoiselle from Armentieres; Hello, hello, who's your lady friend
5. SWEDISH MASQUERADE: Original
6. LUCKY SEVEN: Davy Davy Knick Knack; Toland Dance; Aiken Drum
7. LA RUSSE: Original; Good Humour; Come let us dance and sing
8. KEEL ROW: Original; There's nae luck about the hoose; Castles in the Air
9. BRIDGE OF ATHLONE: The frost is all over; Pet of the Pipers; Smash the Windows
10. CIRCLE WALTZ: We parted on the shore; I belong to Glasgow; Oh Oh Antonio; Peggy O'Neill
11. CHEVIOT RANT: Original; Cloudy Craggs; Traditional Air
12. POLKA: The Brownieside Polka

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Most of the dances on the record can be found in the publications issued by the English Folk Dance & Song Society. The Society's address is Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London NW1 7AY.

DASHING WHITE SERGEANT. Form: 1 man and 2 girls facing 1 man and 2 girls.

A popular dance on both sides of the border.

- A.1. Circle left and right.
- A.2. Men set and turn right hand partner, then left hand partner.
- B.1. Reel of three.
- B.2. Forward and back and pass on.

CALL OF THE PIPES. Form: Couple Dance. Hold as in Gay Gordons.

A once popular dance in the North-East, in need of revival.

- A.1. Forward four steps and back, without turning.
- A.2. Give right hand to partner and change sides, clapping on the last beat.
- B.1. Change back, giving left hands to partner.
- B.2. Balance and swing.

NOTTINGHAM SWING. Form: Longways. Step: Hop Step

- A.1. First man swings second lady (elbow swing).
- A.2. Second man swings first lady.
- B.1. First couple lead down three steps, back and cast round second couple.
- B.2. Couples swing.

MILITARY TWO-STEP. Form: Couple Dance. Man's arm around his partner's waist.

There are as many variants of this as there are dancers. Here is the Northumbrian version!

- A.1. Balance forward and back, walk three steps forward and turn.
- A.2. Repeat in the opposite direction and turn to face partner.
- B.1. Balance right and left, man turns his partner under his right arm.
- B.2. Dance around (Ballroom hold)

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SWEDISH MASQUERADE. Form: Couple Dance.
Despite its name this is a Danish dance, and an energetic one too!

- A.1. March around the room in a clockwise direction, turn.
- A.2. As A.1. but anti-clockwise.
- B.1. Giving inside hands, balance away and towards partner twice, waltz around.
- B.2. As B.1.
- C. As B. but faster.

LUCKY SEVEN. Form: One big circle, men with partner on right.

This was learnt from Tony Foxworthy and apart from the chain bears little resemblance to the 'normal' version. It is now common in the North-East.

- A.1. Into the centre and out, twice.
- A.2. Men back to back with left hand lady, back to back with partner.
- B. Grand chain and swing seventh lady (count partner as 1).
Men finish with this lady on their right.

LA RUSSE. Form: Square Set

Another dance popular on both sides of the border.

- A.1. All face partners, walk past, balance and swing the next.
- A.2. Return to places, balance and swing partner.
- B.1&2. First couple swing, then lead round inside the set to places.
- A.3. Head couples cross over and cross back.
- A.4. Repeat.
- B.3&4. Circle left and promenade back to places.

THE KEEL ROW

This was collected many years ago from Miss D. Proudlock of Longframlington by George Mitchell. Miss Proudlock remembered it was very popular in the village when she was a girl. The dance is open to interpretation.

- Right and left hand star.
- Down the middle and back.
- Dance around.

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BRIDGE OF ATHLONE. Form: Longways for 5 or 6 couples.

An Irish dance, some time in the past taken to America and altered to the following form, in the course of being handed on.

- A.1. Forward and back and crossover.
- A.2. Repeat.
- B.1. Top couple gallop down the middle and back.
- B.2. Top couple cast to make an arch at the bottom, followed by the other couples who lead through arch to places.
All make an arch with partner.
- A.3. Leading lady up the middle and down behind the ladies, while leading man goes up behind the men and down the middle.
- B.3. All swing.

CIRCLE WALTZ. Form: One big circle, men with their partner on the right.

A popular border dance, as it gave the lads and lasses a chance to meet most of the opposite sex during its course.

- A.1. Balance in and out, then pass left hand lady to right hand side.
Repeat three more times.

- B. Keeping fourth girl, take inside hands and balance in and out.
Drop hands and spin inwards to face, repeat balancing out and in.
Ballroom hold, two chasseys in, two out and waltz around the circle for four bars.

CHEVIOT RANT. Form: Couple facing couple. Step: Rant step throughout.

A dance invented by George Mitchell and set to a tune of the same name by Willie Miller, who at one time also played with the band.

- A.1. Right hand star, left hand star.
- A.2. Step to opposite, give right hands and change places.
- B.1. As A.2.
- B.2. Forward and back and pass on to the next couple

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POLKA. Form: Couple dance. Ballroom hold. The Polka is of Continental (ultimately Polish) origin. It arrived in Britain in the 1840s and quickly became the rage. It maintained its popularity until the 1914-18 war, when it quickly declined as other more popular dance forms came in. It is still to be found in the rural areas of Northumberland. The basic step is 1, 2, 3, hop.

The Cheviot
Barn Dance

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First issued by Topic 1974
Recorded at Livingston Studios
Produced by Tony Engle
Sleeve notes by Grahame Binless
Sleeve design by Janet Kerr



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