

Playing to accompany a dance

Shepherds Hey

This is a simple tune which accompanies a solo dance. The dance is popular in Southern England.
The Dance

F#G AF#G G F#G AF#E E F#G AF#G F#G A A D
 F# D G F# D E F# G A F# G F# G A A D

- A 1 Bars 1 2 Walk or skip forward four steps on the beat
Bars 3 4 Walk or skip backward four steps on the beat
Repeat bars 1 to 4 above.
- B 1 Bar 5 Clap on beats 1 and 2, then tap the right foot with the right hand on beat 3.
Bar 6 Clap as in Bar 5 but touch the left foot with the left hand.
Bars 7 8 Clap hands in front (beat 1) behind right knee (beat 2) In front (beat 3) behind left knee (beat 4) in front (beat 5) behind back (beat 6) and finally in front (beat 7) pause (beat 8).
- A 2 Repeat A1
- B 2 Repeat B1 but in first two bars slap backside instead of foot (right and left)
- A Repeat A1
- B Repeat B1 but this time tap head instead of foot.
- A4 Repeat A1 but finish with three stamps of the feet.

Tasks:

1. In pairs perform the tune whilst your partner does the dance.
2. Try the same in a four where two play and two dance - make the movements work for two dancers by maybe clapping together or dancing around each other etc.
3. Find out about Morris dancers - maybe try using the Internet?
4. Try this with other tunes/dances which you have discovered.