

Happy is the Miller Boy (Source: Recorder Routes 1, Carol King)

FORMATION: For the A section make three, four-person stars. For the B section form six, side-by-side couples in a row.

ACTION:

Section A: move in a right-hand star for 8 beats and then a left-hand star for 8 beats.

Section B: couples do dip and dive. Couples hold hands; lead couple turns and goes down the set. They raise arms over couple 2, dip under couple 3's arms, raise arms over couple 4, etc. and turn around at the end to become the new end couple. **Couple 2 repeats this sequence after 8 beats ("better watch out"). Then remake stars to be ready to start Section A again.

**Version 2: During the B section: Couple 2 doesn't wait until half-way through Section B, but turns after 2 measures and dips and dives down the set. As each couple gets to the top of the set, they also turn and dip and dive down the set until all couples have gone through. The challenge is to accomplish this within the 8 measures of music and be ready to start Section A on time. (Sometimes we just repeat the B section.)

Grab, Boys, Grab (Source: Singing Games and Dances, David McIntosh)

FORMATION: Double circle of partners facing counterclockwise. An extra man is in the center.

ACTION: Verse 1. All promenade until the last word of the first verse is sung, then the boys must grab another partner. It is here that the extra boy has a chance to get a partner.

Verse 2. All promenade during the singing of the first three lines. As the last line is sung, the ladies step forward and the gentlemen step back, so that everyone has a new partner. The extra man may get a partner as this action takes place.

If time allows: Using the words from the first line "Happy is the miller ____" as a starting point, create new text for the rest of the song and a dance to fit the words. Your dance may have a B section or not. Demonstrate your dance and song to a neighboring group. (Isn't this surely how songs changed from one place to the next.... before we videotaped everything?)

Bibliography and Other Resources (not a complete list by any means)

Singing Games and Dances, pg 46, ed. David McIntosh, Association Press 1957

Recorder Routes I, Carol King, pg 41-43, Memphis Musicraft Publications 1994

Rhythms and Dances for Elementary Schools, pg 39 – 144, Dorothy La Salle, A.S.
Barnes and Company 1926

The Little Golden Book of Singing Games, Katharine Tyler Wessells, Simon and
Schuster 1947

120 Singing Games and Dances for Elementary Schools, Lois Choksy and David
Brummitt, Prentice-Hall, Inc. 1987

Step Lively, Marian Rose, 2000

HAPPY IS THE MILLER BOY

ILLINOIS PLAY PARTY

A

HAP- PY IS THE MIL- LER BOY WHO LIVES BY THE MILL, AND THE MILL- WHEEL TURNS WITH A FREE GOOD WILL.

5 ONE HAND ON THE HOP- PER AND THE O- THER ON THE SACK. TURN AND TURN AND TURN IT RIGHT BACK. WE'RE

9 **B** SAIL - ING EAST. WE'RE SAIL - ING WEST, WE'RE SAIL - ING O - VER THE O - CEAN.

13 BET - TER WATCH OUT OR YOU'LL GET WET UN - LESS YOU'RE QUICK WITH THE MO - TION.

GRAB BOYS GRAB

ILLINOIS PLAY PARTY

HAP- PY WAS THE MIL- LER WHO LIVED BY HIM- SELF. ALL THE BREAD AND CHEESE HE GOT HE LAID UP- ON THE SHELF. ONE
HAP- PY WAS THE MIL- LER WHO LIVED BY HIM- SELF. ALL THE BREAD AND CHEESE HE GOT HE LAID UP- ON THE SHELF. ONE

5 HAND ON THE HOP - PER AND THE O - THER ON THE SLAB. EV - 'RY TIME THE MILL TURNS,
HAND ON THE HOP - PER AND THE O - THER AND THE BACK.

8 GRAB BOYS GRAB. LAD - IES STEP FOR - WARD AND THE GENTS STEP BACK.