

# **Mrs Ivy Sands Single and Sailor's Hornpipes**

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Newcastle Series

MRS IVY SANDS

THE SINGLE AND SAILOR'S HORNPIPES

A S Metherell, C Metherell and J Douglass

Mrs Ivy Sands first began clog dancing at the age of four in about 1925 when she lived at Bedlington Station, Northumberland. This was at the instigation of the family doctor, who advised it as an aid to her health. She learnt all her steps from Charlie Hunter over a period of four years ending when she was eight. He charged her one shilling a lesson. Charlie and his brother Norman had both been pupils of Dickie Farrell, who was perhaps the most famous of all Northumbrian dancers, having come second to George Mackintosh in the last World Championship competition (this was held in London prior to W.W.I). Dickie was responsible for training many local dancers and was judging competitions until 1945. He died in 1950 or 1951. The Hunters came from Barrington and Charlie taught a number of people in and around the Ashington area. Ivy has told us that he claimed to have made up several steps, but at present we are unable to say how much invention plays a part in the steps which he taught to Ivy, who says that she has not altered the steps at all. Charlie died in about 1960.

Ivy frequently danced at go-as-you-pleases at local theatres. On one occasion at the age of five, she performed a duet under the billing of "Mutt and Jeff", her partner, Tommy Makepeace, another of Charlie's pupils, was over six feet tall. In later years Ivy danced at charity concerts, her regular musician being a concertina player named Bower.

Ivy danced in three main competitions. In 1936 she was placed fifth in the Northumberland and Durham Championships held at Durham, the winner being Joe Daley of Blaydon. During the war she was placed third in a competition in Stanley, organised by Harry Robinson (a clog teacher in that area). Finally she was placed second in one of Johnson Ellwood's competitions at Boldon Colliery in the mid 1950's.

During and after the war Ivy ran a dancing class and taught several local people clog dancing (she also taught stage and tap dancing). At least one of her pupils entered the competitions held in Hexham in 1949.

Ivy's clogs are of black leather with a slightly turned up toe and high heels - these have extra pieces of wood added to heighten them. Ivy said that many people did this to make kicking the heels together easier. Her clogs were bought in Castlegarth in Newcastle, a street where many clogmakers used to work.

Ivy divided her steps into three categories, as taught her by Charlie Hunter. The "Single Hornpipe" consists of six steps and a double shuffle, the "Double Hornpipe" of eight steps and a double shuffle, and her exhibition steps of which there were about twelve (the other two sets of steps are published separately).

Ivy always performed the Single and Double Hornpipe steps in the same order, but when composing a sequence of steps for a performance, she would include some of her more difficult exhibition steps. Her style is rather higher on her toes than that taught as "North East Style" by the Ellwood family, and with much more movement and lift. As will be seen from the notations her shuffles were mostly straight although she told us that Charlie Hunter danced with round shuffles but she was unable to do this herself.

Ivy made a distinction between dancing for competitions and dancing for shows. In competitions the steps were to be performed on the spot, with the arms by the sides. In a concert performance on the other hand, she would move about rather more and dance in a much freer style. She would always dance each step off both feet, beginning with the left.

Her favourite tune was called "Three Little Blackberries" (other dancers around the North East have also used this tune which seems to have been popular in the 1930's), although she said that the tunes used for dancing could be either schottisches or hornpipes, the latter being more "proper" and always used for competitions.

#### The Sailor's Hornpipe.

In 1983 Ivy was taking a class at the Newcastle Weekend of Dance, when she casually mentioned that she knew a version of the Sailor's Hornpipe - in clogs! Yes, she would dance it for us if we wanted. John Hollis was rushed to the scene with his video camera, just in time to record the event for posterity. By 1985 a class was being run at that year's Newcastle Weekend for the Sailor's Hornpipe. Ivy was supervising, and, on her way downstairs during a coffee break, suddenly remembered two more steps which were quickly collected on the landing! The dance had grown from six to eight steps and those attending the class were taught the new steps that very afternoon.

Ivy always used to start with step A and finish with step G but otherwise the order seems to have been fairly fluid. All the steps were danced first off the left foot and then off the right.

# SINGLE HORNPIPE

## Step 1

1		<u>step</u> (spring)	)	shuffle	A: :C, C
a			)		:C, C
2				<u>step</u>	:XC
a					A:
3		<u>step</u>			A: :C, C
4		<u>hop</u>		shuffle	:C, C
&	)				
a	)				

Step is 6 times through off alternate feet + Finish

## Finish

1		<u>step</u>	)	shuffle	A: :C, C
a			)		:C, C
2				<u>step</u>	:XC
a		<u>step</u>			A: :C, C
3			)	shuffle	:C, C
a			)		:A
4				<u>step</u>	B:
a		touch			A: :A
5		<u>step</u>		<u>step</u>	
6					
7				<u>step</u>	
8					

## Step 2

A 1		<u>step</u>	)	shuffle	A: :C, C
a			)		:C, C
2				<u>step</u>	:XC
a					RC:
3		tap			F:
4		touch			RE/F*: :C, C
B 5		<u>step</u>	)	shuffle	:C, C
a			)		:XC
6				<u>step</u>	A:
a		<u>step</u>			A: :C, C
7		<u>hop</u>		shuffle	:C, C
8			)		
&			)		
a					

Step is A B A B B B Finish  
 | | | | | |  
 L L R R L R L



# Step 5. Double Screw

A	1	<u>step</u>				A:	:C',C'
	a			<u>heel swivel</u>		A:	:A/B
	2	<u>step</u>			<u>step</u>	A:	:C',C'
	3	<u>step</u>		<u>heel swivel</u>		A:	:A/B
	a				<u>step</u>	A:	:C',C'
	4	<u>step</u>				A:	:XC'
B	5	<u>step</u>				A:	:C',C'
	a		)	shuffle		A:	:XC'
	6		)		<u>step</u>	A:	:C',C'
	a					A:	:XC'
	7	<u>step</u>				A:	:C',C'
	8	<u>hop</u>				A:	:C',C'
	a		)	shuffle		A:	:C',C'
			)				

Step is A B A B B B Finish  
 | | | | | |  
 L L R R L R L

# Step 6

	1	<u>step</u>				A:	:C',C'
	a		)	shuffle		A:	:XC'
	2		)		<u>step</u>	A:	:C'bt
	a	<u>step</u>				A:	:Dex
	3						
	a	<u>hop</u>					
	4						

Step is 6 times through off alternate feet + Finish

### Step 7. Double Shuffles

1	<u>step</u>	)	shuffle	A:
&		)		:C,C
2	<u>hop</u>	)	shuffle	A:
&		)		:C,C
a		)		

Step is 12 times through off alternate feet + Finish

The lack of accents on the shuffle modifiers is quite accurate. Ivy is the only dancer I know who can dance double shuffles clearly and accurately, at a good speed - straight!

When repeated off the right foot Ivy finished the whole dance with the following "dumdiddy-um-dum" finish. Please note that this finish was collected off the video, as Ivy always taught the slightly different version notated in the Double Hornpipe book.

### Final Finish

1	<u>jump</u> =		<u>jump</u> =	F:F
2		click toe(L)	heel(R)	A†:RXB†
&	<u>spring</u>			A:
a	<u>heel drop</u>			A:
3			tip tap	:RXE
4			touch	:B
5				
a			†	:D†
6			<u>spring</u>	D†:A
7	touch			A:
8				



# SAILOR'S HORNPIPE

## Step A

8		<u>hop</u>			A: (RB:)
1				<u>step</u>	:D*
2		<u>step</u>			RC:
3				<u>step</u>	:D*
4				<u>hop</u>	RB :A
5		<u>step</u>			D*:
6				<u>step</u>	:RC
7		<u>step</u>			D*:

Step is three times through off alternate feet and Finish.

## Finish

and			)	shuffle	:E,E
8			)		
and		<u>hop</u>			A:
1				<u>step</u>	:RXC
and	)	shuffle			E,E:
2	)				
and				<u>hop</u>	:A
3		<u>step</u>			RXC:
and			)	shuffle	:E,E
4			)		
and		<u>hop</u>			A:
5				<u>step</u>	:RXC
6		<u>step</u>			A:
7				<u>step</u>	:A

## Notes.

1. During the finish the arms are held folded, comfortably, at just below shoulder height.

2. The finish as notated above is given off the left foot, although unusually the first strong beat is made with the right.

# Step B

1			<u>step</u>					A:
and					)	shuffle		:É,É
2					)			
and						<u>spring</u>		:XC
3			<u>step</u>					À:
4			<u>hop</u>					À:
&					)	shuffle		:É,É
					)			

Step is six times through off alternate feet and finish.

## Notes.

1. The arms are folded throughout the step. The torso and the head are inclined slightly towards the shuffling foot. The body is held erect for the finish.
2. On the sixth repeat of the step in order to get into the finish beats 4/&/a are not performed.
3. The finish is performed off the "wrong foot", thus if the step is performed off the left, the finish is performed off the right.

# Step C

1			heel touch	:É/Gtup
2				
3			touch	:Abt
and		)	shuffle	:É,E
4		)		
and	<u>hop</u>			À:
5			<u>step</u>	:RXC
and	shuffle	)		È,È:
6		)		
and			<u>hop</u>	:Á
7	<u>step</u>		shuffle	RXC:
and		)		:É,E
8		)		
and	<u>hop</u>			À:
1	tup		<u>step</u>	Àtup:RG*
2				
3	touch			Abt:
and	shuffle	)		È,È:
4		)		
and			<u>hop</u>	:Á
5	<u>step</u>		shuffle	RXC:
and		)		:E,E
6		)		
and	<u>hop</u>			À:
7			<u>step=</u>	:RXC*
8				
1	<u>heel step</u>		<u>heel step</u>	A:
and				:RB*
2	<u>heel step</u>		<u>heel step</u>	RB*:
and				:RB*
3	<u>heel step</u>		<u>heel step</u>	RB*:
and				:RB*
4	<u>heel step</u>		<u>heel step</u>	RB*:
and				:RB*
5	<u>heel step</u>		<u>heel step</u>	B*:
and				:B*
6	<u>heel step</u>		<u>heel step</u>	B*:
and				:B*
7	<u>step</u>		<u>heel step</u>	A:

Step is as above followed by the finish.

1. On bar 1 beat 1 the body is bent well forward towards G, the arms are extended and the hands grasp an imaginary rope passing horizontally above the right toe. The movement is performed in reverse on bar 3 beat 1.
2. On bar 1 beat 3 the body is straightened and the hands, still grasping an imaginary rope, are brought up to touch the chest about 9 inches below the chin. The movement is reversed on bar 3 beat 3.
3. During the rest of the first 4 bars the arms are folded with the body held erect.
4. Throughout bar 5 the arms are unfolded but held in position in front of the body and rotated as though winding a rope. The rotation is reversed in bar 6.

1	<u>step</u>	)	shuffle	À:
and		)		:É,É
2				
and			<u>step</u>	:XC
3	<u>step</u>			À:
4			<u>spring</u>	:XD*

Notes.

1. When the step is danced off the left foot, the right arm performs a vertical circling movement counter clockwise, parallel with the direction of movement. The arm is at the bottom of its circle on beat 4. When the step is repeated off the right foot the left arm circles clockwise.
2. The step is performed travelling in a small clockwise circle when danced off the left, counter clockwise off the right. Face front for the finish.
3. On the sixth repeat beat 4 is missed off in order to get into the finish.
4. Arms are folded for the finish.

# Step E

1	<u>step</u>	)	shuffle	A: /
and		)		:E, E
2		)	<u>step</u>	/XC
and	<u>step</u>	)	shuffle	A: /
3		)		:E, E
and		)	<u>step</u>	/A
4	<u>step</u>	)	shuffle	A: /
and		)		:E, E
5		)	<u>step</u>	/XC
and	<u>hop</u>	)	shuffle	A: /
6		)		:E, E
and		)		
7		)		
8		)		
&		)		
a		)		

B part = beats 1/and/2/and/3/4 of step D

C part = beats 1/and/2/and/3 of step D

Step is A A B C and finish.

| | | |  
 L R L L

## Notes.

1. In the A parts the arms are folded and the torso and head inclined slightly in the direction of the shuffling foot.
2. In parts B and C the arms remain folded, and the movements are performed in a very small circle moving clockwise when performed off the left foot and counter clockwise when performed off the right.
3. It will be observed that as in step D the last bar is cut short in order to get into the finish.

# Step F

and		)	shuffle	:É,É
4		)		À:
and	<u>hop</u>			:RXC
1			<u>step</u>	E,É:
and	) shuffle			:Á
2	)		<u>hop</u>	RXC:
and				
3	<u>step</u>			

Step is six times through off alternate feet and finish

## Notes.

1. The finish is performed off the "wrong foot", i.e. off the right when the step is performed off the left.
2. On beat 1 the hands are held almost vertically up in front of the body as though grasping a rope. The hands are lowered vertically to waist level by beat 3. The movement is intended to imitate pulling on a vertical rope.
3. Arms are folded for the finish.

# Step G

A	1	<u>flat jump=</u>	<u>flat jump=</u>	A:A
	2	<u>flat step=</u>	<u>heel swivel=</u>	XA*:A,F
B	3	<u>flat step=</u>	<u>swivel</u>	XA*:A,F
	4	<u>flat step=</u>	<u>heel swivel=</u>	XA*:A,F

Step is A and the B 11 times through off same foot and finish.

## Notes.

The step is essentially a hagworm type movement.

2. The step is first performed in a clockwise circle, finishing front for the finish and then repeated in a counter clockwise circle.

3. When performed off the left, the right hand is held up to shade the eyes, as though looking out to sea. The left hand is held up when the step is repeated off the right.

# Step H

A part = beats and/4/and/1/and/2/and/3 of step F

B	and		)	shuffle	:É,É
4			)		À:
and	<u>hop</u>			<u>step</u>	:RXĆ
1					Èbt*:
and	<u>step</u>			<u>step</u>	:RXĆ
2					Èbt*:
and	<u>step</u>			<u>step</u>	:RXĆ*
3					

Step is A B A B B B and finish  
 | | | | |  
 L L R R L R

## Notes.

1. Arms are folded for the A parts. On the B part the left hand is held up as though shading the eyes when the movement is performed off the left foot (i.e. the hand nearest the direction of travel). This is reversed when the B part is danced off the right foot.

2. Arms are folded for the finish.

3. Ivy used this as the last step of the dance, and on the last finish the right hand was brought up in a smart salute on the last three beats.