

Federation Waltz

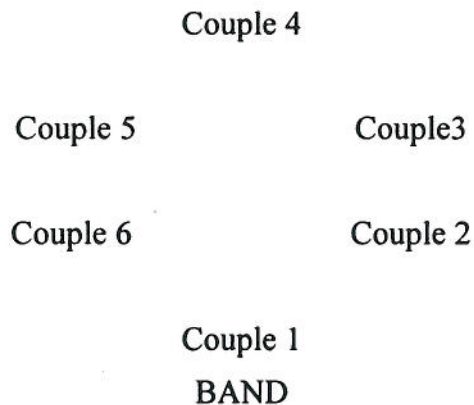
Name of dance: Federation Waltz

Composer: Karenne Kenny

Date of Composition: February 2001

Background: This dance was inspired by a waltz I found in one of my grandfather's music books, dated Christmas, 1899 and called the Federation Waltz. The musical score is really a piano recital piece, which has been modified to strict dance tempo and bar count. The music is very evocative of the era at the beginning of the 20th century and the dance symbolises the images present at the time of Federation in Sydney: - 6 couples representing the six separate colonies which joined together to form the Commonwealth of Australia; 6 pointed stars representing the six pointed Federation star on the new flag and arches, which were built in the streets of Sydney out of wool, coal, wheat etc, through which parades passed during celebrations to mark Federation on 1 January 1901.

Formation: A circle of six couples. (There needs to be a space, the size of a person, between each couple; - this circle size needs to be maintained to allow room to dance correctly inside the circle) The couple with their backs to the band/music will be couple number one. Numbering continues anticlockwise round the circle as shown in the diagram.



The ladies progress during the dance, while the men retain their initial positions and numbers. Many parts of the dance are performed by odd numbered couples together, followed by even numbered couples. At all times odd and even refers to the men's position.

Stepping: Waltz in ballroom hold: forward waltz step

Music: 8 bar Introduction

96 bars for once through the dance, repeat twice to complete ladies progression.

8 bar conclusion

Total = 304 bars

The dance has been specifically written to fit the music provided.

Speed of music: 56 bars per minute.

Fits the tempo of music played for Waltz Country dances.

Basic steps, not explained in detail, are those currently used at Bush Music dances

Acknowledgements:

To *Gail Walsh*—for letting me hear the tune for the first time, helping me decide how to modify it so it could be used as a dance and for giving me a working copy of the music to compose the dance instructions.

To *Jim Dewar* — for providing the actual dance music submitted.

Instructions: Important: Couples need to be conscious of maintaining the original circle size and not letting it become smaller by moving closer to the centre. While waiting for their turn to move, couples should stand with inside hands joined at waist height, lady's hand resting on top of her partner's.

Bars

- 8 Introduction; **honour partner and corner** gracefully. (The music for the introduction is quite involved and leads quickly into the first movement. Dancers need to listen and count carefully)
- 16 **Odd numbered couples waltz** inside the circle using ballroom hold. Take time to use 14 bars to reach the man's home position, with the man having his back to the centre of the circle. Use the final 2 bars to turn the lady clockwise (man's left hand in lady's right hand) and bow/curtsy. Men then step out to stand beside their lady.
- 16 **Even numbered couples waltz** inside the circle, for 14 bars and bow/curtsy during the last 2 bars, remaining with the man's back to the circle and his partner facing him, ready for the next movement. During the even couple's bow/curtsy, the odd men move into the circle so that the man's back is to the circle and his partner is facing him—as for even couples.
- 8 **Slip step arches and waltz to place:** Even couples raise their hands to form an arch and take 4 side slip steps in a clockwise direction round the circle while the odd couples (in open hand hold at waist height) take 4 side steps in an anticlockwise direction through an arch. (Arching arms may have to lose contact depending on the height of the couple passing through them) All couples take ballroom hold and use 4 bars to waltz past the couple they arched with, to place; (keep close and do not make a wide circle) Odd couples move clockwise and inside the circle; even couples move anticlockwise and outside the circle. Both couples end up in place, with the man's back to the centre of the circle.
(Note: Couples waltzing clockwise may need to begin their waltz home by waltzing towards each other for 1 bar otherwise they start waltzing on the 'wrong' foot.)
- 8 **Slip step arches and waltz to place in the opposite direction;** this time the odd couples make the arches and even couples step through. When waltzing to place

odd couples move anticlockwise and outside the circle while even couples move clockwise, inside the circle. Both couples need to cut the last turn short to finish in place, both facing the centre of the circle.

- 8 **Odd couples star right and left** in the centre of the circle. With the lady's right hand resting on his right hand, the man leads his partner into the centre; the 3 odd couples star in a clockwise direction for 4 bars using a forward waltz step. Then, all turn (pulling right shoulders back), to star left for 4 bars, backing into place.
- 8 **Even couples star right and left.** (Repeat odd couples movements in previous step.)
- 16 Three **odd numbered ladies chain 4 times** with only the odd numbered men, using a forward waltz step. *This is the lady's progression.* The 3 ladies use 1 bar to waltz clockwise into the circle to briefly touch right hands, 1 bar to waltz towards the next odd numbered man, and 2 bars to courtesy turn with this man. This movement is repeated 3 times-thus each lady will turn with their current partner but move on to finish with the next odd numbered man.
- 16 Three **even ladies chain 4 times** with even numbered men. (Repeat odd lady's movements in previous step.)
- ** This is the dance once through. **Repeat twice** so ladies return to their original partners. (Odd numbered ladies will only dance with odd numbered men, even ladies with even numbered men.)
- 8 **Conclusion. Promenade, turn ladies and bow/curtsy.** At the end of the third time through the dance, when the even ladies finish with their original partners on the last courtesy turn, the turn ends with the couple facing line of dance rather the centre of the circle. The couple then slip into lower promenade hold. As the even couples execute this last courtesy turn, the odd couples turn clockwise, to face line of dance and adopt lower promenade hold also.

All couples promenade using forward waltz step for 4 bars, anticlockwise around the circle. Using the last 4 bars, turn the ladies clockwise, under joined right hands, and perform a deep bow/curtsy. This last movement should be performed gracefully and elegantly, without rushing.

