

Solomon Levi

We learned this from Boston dance caller Sue Rosen. The key to this dance is to have everybody sing along on the chorus as though they were in a Gilbert and Sullivan musical. It is an easy, though incredibly fun square dance.

Music: Solomon Levi (as recorded on *Sashay the Donut*)

Formation: Square dance

Calls:

Actions:

Opening figure

Honor to your partners
And bow to your corners all
All join hands and circle left,
You circle 'round the hall
Now circle to the right,
Go the other way back and then
When you're home, you swing your own
And promenade the hall

Bow to partner (4)

Bow to corner (4)

Circle left (8)

Circle right (8)

Swing partner (8)

Singing

“Oh Solomon Levi, La la la la la la la
Oh Solomon Levi, La la la la la la la”

Promenade once around the square
while singing the chorus. (16)

Main figure

The first couple separate
Around the outside track

First couple stand back to back with
partner and immediately separate,
walking away from partner.

You pass your partner goin' by
And meet them coming back

Pass right shoulder with partner
on the other side of the square
and continue around... (16)

Now pass your partner once again
And bow to your corners all

As first couple approaches home, pass
right shoulder with partner again
and then, everyone bow to corner. (8)

Turn around and swing your own
And promenade the hall

Everyone turn around and swing partner, (8)

Singing

“Oh Solomon Levi, La la la la la la la
Oh Solomon Levi, La la la la la la la”

Promenade once around the square
while singing the chorus. (16)

The dance is repeated with the second, then third and then fourth couple leading the figure. Then the head two couples (couples one and three) lead the figure. Then the side two couples (two and four) lead the figure. The grand finale is all four couples leading the figure. In the walkthrough you need to remind the dancers that as the traffic gets heavier, passing by the right shoulder becomes increasingly important. If dancing 'gents with ladies', the gents always pass on the outside, while the ladies 'hug' the circle.

Closing figure

Now all join hands and circle left
Go once around the track

All join hands and circle left. (16)

And when you get back home again
Go into the center and back.

Go into the center once again
And give a great big hand
To everybody in the square
And even in the band.

All go forward and back. (8)

Go forward and back again. (8)

Notes: The relationship between the calls and the actions in these old singing squares is sometimes a bit loose, as you can see in the closing figure of this dance.

We often do not practice the opening and closing figures ahead of time. Andy likes to say, “There are always things in a square dance that the caller forgot to tell you about. You have no idea how this dance begins.” Right before the music begins Andy adds, “Do not attempt to think during this dance. Square dancing is 99% listening. There are no mistakes in square dancing; if you get confused just go home and swing your partner until you hear something that makes sense.”