

TESS

Longways Duple Minor, 2s improper.

Tune: 16 bar slow reel (Tess's Lament) danced 4 steps per bar

A	<p>Join hands in a ring of 4, balance in towards centre and out, then 1st corners (2 men) ½ RH Turn (2 bars); into.....</p> <p>Gypsy Rt shldr with opposite ½ way and turn single Left (2 bars);</p> <p>Balance the ring in and out again, then new 1st corners (2 ladies) ½ LH Turn (2 bars); into...</p> <p>Gypsy Left shldr with Ptnr (across) ½ way and turn single Rt (2 bars).</p> <p><i>Progressed but crossed over</i></p>
B	<p>2HT Ptnr (across) once around (2 bars);</p> <p>Ladies cross Rt shoulders, men cross Rt shoulders and turn Rt to face (2 bars); <i>All home</i></p> <p>½ draw poussette clockwise (ladies back to start) (2 bars);</p> <p>Set R&L and ½ RH Turn (2 bars).</p>

Tess of the D'Urbervilles is perhaps one of Thomas Hardy's most famous novels; it was deemed quite shocking when it was first published.

Hardy was of course not only a fine author, but also an excellent fiddler, country dancer and poet. One of his poems is called Tess's Lament, which encapsulates much of the story of the book in 6 or 7 verses, and describes the anguish Tess felt at the loss of Angel Clare and her shocking treatment at the hands of Alec.

I was part of a band that was asked to provide music for an amateur dramatic production of Tess and the Director wanted to use the poem as a means of introducing many of the characters of the play right at the start, and asked us to put it to music. Whilst there was much music of the time that could have been used, nothing really suited the song nor the mood that the Director was hoping that the song would create. So I wrote the tune used for this dance for that song.

Now over 30 years later, I felt that the tune deserved a dance!!

Written in Whakamarama, New Zealand, 26th January 2019