

# Le Papillon

Ages 9 to adult

## Music

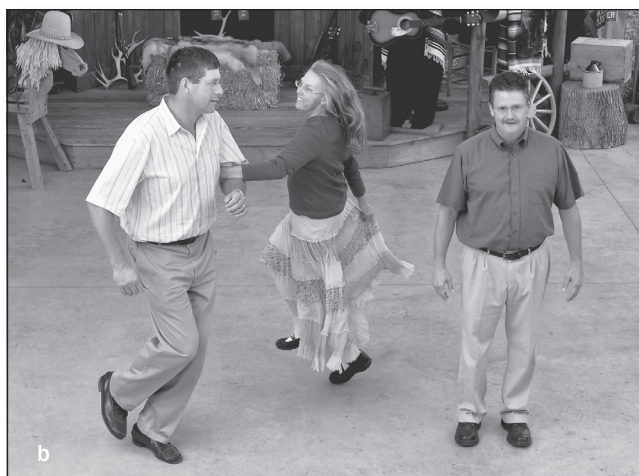
Vol. 1: Track 6 with calls, track 7 without calls. Tune: “Old Man and Woman.”

## Formation

Circle: Trios of any three people, side by side, facing counterclockwise around the room like spokes of a wagon wheel. An easy way to get to this formation is to make one big circle and count off into groups of threes.

Calls	Music	Directions
<b>All promenade</b>	A	Trios take hands, and all march around the room. (16 beats)
<b>Swing on the right</b>		All stop promenading. Middle person in each trio swings right-hand partner. (8)
<b>Swing on the left</b>		Middle person in each trio swings left-hand partner. (8)
<b>Promenade</b>	B	(16)
<b>Swing on the right</b>		(8)
<b>Swing on the left</b>		(8)
<i>...Continue...</i>		Continue for as long as you wish.

The music and dances of New England have been strongly influenced by the people of Quebec, the vast Canadian province to the north. Quebec was settled in the 1600s by people from France, Scotland, England, and Ireland. In the late 1800s, as industries grew in the cities of New England, many people from Quebec were drawn from the harsh agricultural life to the thriving millwork available in New England. Missing their homeland, they sang and danced as a way of keeping their traditions, language, and music alive.



Le Papillon: (a) formation of three, (b) swing on the right-hand side, (c) swing on the left-hand side, (d) trios promenading in a circle.

## French Calls

- Promenez-vous
- Swing à la droite, or Crochet droit
- Swing à la gauche, or Crochet gauche

## Variations

Alternative versions: Dance to the CD track without the calls. After doing the standard moves for a while, you might try having the middle person in each group leave his or her partners and move forward to the next group (or to the group that is two, or even three, places forward). You might also have them dance right down the circular alley until they come back to their original partners. This will put the calling off-phrase, but you can adapt by giving the call when the dancers are ready for it.

## About the Dance

*Le papillon* (pronunciation: päpé(y)ōn) is the French term for “the butterfly.” This traditional French Canadian dance is still performed in various ways and styles from Quebec to Vancouver (some versions make use of the waltz). The version here was learned while dancing it in the town of Loretteville, just outside Quebec City. The dance is similar to *Le Reel a Neuf* (the Nine Reel), which is also danced in Canada. Because it involves trios, it can provide a bit of variety in an evening of squares and longways.

## About the Tune

This tune is a French Canadian melody learned years ago from a 78 rpm recording by fiddler Isidore Soucy and his family. It is not to be confused with the popular fiddle tune “Growling Old Man and Grumbling Old Woman.” Other French tunes you could use for this dance include “Reel de Patineur,” “Reel Joliette,” and “Bluebell Reel.”

### Old Man and Woman

Part A

Part B