

## **Kindergarten Reel**

by Peter Amidon *from NEDM's Listen to the Mockingbird*

**Music:** Part of *Yankee Doodle*, *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star* and the A music of any favorite jig.

**Formation:** Longways set for 6-8 couples

*Actions:*

***Yankee Doodle, measures 1-2 (4)***

Three steps (more or less) forward and stop.

***measures 3-4 (4)***

Three steps back to place and stop.

***Twinkle Twinkle, measures 1-4 (16)***

Two hand turn, once or twice around. (played slowly, like an air) When the music stops go back to place.

***16-24 beats of any favorite jig (16-24)***

First couple sashay down the middle, (just the A music or a bit more) back to the top, cast off alone and run to the bottom of the set. The rest of the dancers clap to the music.

***To a single sustained note***

When the note starts, step sideways towards or minor chord music with near foot. Then slide other foot until both feet are together again. Now each dancer has moved up one place.

Repeat dance with the new top couple.

Because the music is telling the children what to do, you can do this dance playing a recorder, piano, xylophone, guitar, or anything you can play. It is best to do this with live music so you can interact with the children. By the second or third time through the dance the children will need no verbal prompting. Peter likes to separate the two phrases of *Yankee Doodle* so the moment of stopping between the forward and back is defined. He also likes sometimes to have a dramatic pause between the slow and schmaltzy *Twinkle* for the two hand turn, and the bright and lively playing of the jig when the first couple does the sashaying and casting. The final chord or note is dark and mysterious. At the end of the dance Peter says: 'Bow to your partner. Now look your partner right in the eyes and say, *Thank you for the dance.* Now clap your hands for the music.'