

How cool that the participants included English country dance musicians and old time musicians, as well as those who are not currently playing in a dance band!

Our community is very happy to have provided this opportunity for local musicians and hopes to do it again in the future!

~ Gaye Fifer, Pittsburgh, PA

### **A Memorable Wedding**

Hello, fellow CDSS folk. Recent news items evoked strong memories for Dave Bartley, Eric Anderson, and me of a wedding reception dance I called and then played eighteen years ago. They encouraged me to share the story.

Katrina and Robert had attended some friends' wedding in 1999 for which I had called dances. Having had a good time then, they asked me to call for their wedding in June of 2000. Robert's father, Stephen, despite the challenges of using an electric wheelchair to get around, traveled all the way from England to Seattle to attend. I was then thoroughly impressed during the opening grand march to see Stephen expertly and joyously "tuning through" the arches made by other guests. He and his wife waltzed together and, a few dances later, after gathering the willing participants into two concentric circles (gentleman on the inside facing out, ladies on the outside facing in), Stephen and his wife decided to join that mixer. Clever as he was driving his chair, the action of the dance involved stepping sideways (a lot), a move I was fairly sure his chair was not designed for. There was also a pair of "into the center and backs," and I doubted the chair came with a reverse gear. It was, in short, a dance most definitely unsuitable to his mode of locomotion. Of course, I most certainly could NOT ask the groom's father to leave the dance floor, so, with a bit of trepidation, I quickly reconfigured the side stepping to involve only the ladies, eliminated the into the center and back portion, turned to the band and said: "I don't know what tune you've chosen, but this dance has just changed from 32 bars to 24." Quick as a wink they altered the tune, and the dance went off flawlessly (or as flawless as one gets at a wedding dance).

Farewell, Dr. Hawking. I'm so glad you got to dance at your son's wedding.

~ Laura Mé Smith (Kirkland, WA)

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