

Thylacine Lament -- Tasmanian bush dance by David Wanless, October 2024

Formation: Cpls facing acw around line of dance in lower promenade (skater's) hold. Start with outside foot free.

Music: 32 bar waltz, preferably Thylacine Lament by David Hornett.. Level: Easy. Steps: Waltz except for sways in A2.

	Bars	Call	Details
A1	4	Promenade fwd	(In skater's hold)
	4	Wheel acw Face ptr	Lks backwards, Rbs fwd. Face ptr with Lks on inside of circle and Rbs on outside, still with hands crossed.
A2	2	Bal fwd & back	Directly twd ptr rather than to L of them
	2	Turn Rb under	Raise joined hs, Rb turns cw under joined hs
	4	Sway & sway (2) Turn Lk under (2)	Keeping eye contact and arms rounded, sway along LOD (open feet, lift trailing foot until only toe touches floor (1, pause, pause)) then against LOD, then turn Lk acw under joined hs
B1	4	Shade & shade (2) Turn Rb under (2)	Turn 1/8 fwd (Lk acw, Rb cw, keeping arms rounded and maintaining eye contact) then 1/4 bwd (Lk cw, Rb acw), then turn Rb cw under joined hs
	4	Right shoulder round	RSh round partner, keeping eye contact, then take ballroom hold
B2	8	Circular waltz	(Ideally with Lk's Lh, palm down, cupped over Rb's Rh)

Composed for Folk Federation Heritage Bush Dance on 26/10/24 with the Tasmanian Heritage Fiddle Ensemble, to fit David Hornett's haunting tune of the same name, and to lament the Thylacine or Tasmanian Tiger, a beautiful animal we shall see no more, a reminder of the fragility of nature and the need for our society to dramatically transform its ways and its relationship with the natural world and other people to one of respect and co-existence.

The shading and high rounded arm attitudes in A2&B1 are allusions to the Regency era, a time during which there was much beauty, but the first bounties on Thylacines and Aboriginal people were introduced.

Thanks to Cathleen Hutchinson for the right shoulder round and sway figures, in Feb. 2025. Alt move: Sway instead of shade.