The One O'Clock Canon

Dance for 4 couples in a 4 couple longwise set — 4x64 bar overlapping Reel (music: 5x32 bar Reel)

1-8 1st couple cross giving right hand, cast off two places, cross giving right hand, and cast up into second position. 2nd couple step up on bars 3 and 4.

9-16 1st couple dance right hands across in a wheel with the couple above them (in 1st place) followed by left hands across with the couple below them (in third place).

17-24 All dance (right shoulder) reels of four on their own sidelines.

25-26 1st man turns the man above him (in 1st place) once round with the right hand while 1st lady turns the lady above her (in 1st place) once round with the right hand.

27-30 1st couple dance left hands across once round with the couple in third place.

31-32 1st couple cast off one place to third place.

At this point second couple, who are now in first position, start dancing from bar 1 while the original first couple continue as follows.

33-40 1st couple and 4th couple dance rights and lefts.

41-48 1st couple dance right hands across in a wheel with the couple below them (in fourth place) followed by left hands across with the couple above them (in second place).

49-56 All dance (right shoulder) reels of four on their own sidelines.

57-58 1st man turns the man below him (in 4th place) once round with the right hand while 1st lady turns the lady below her (in 4th place) once round with the right hand.

59-62 1st couple dance left hands across once round with the couple in second place.

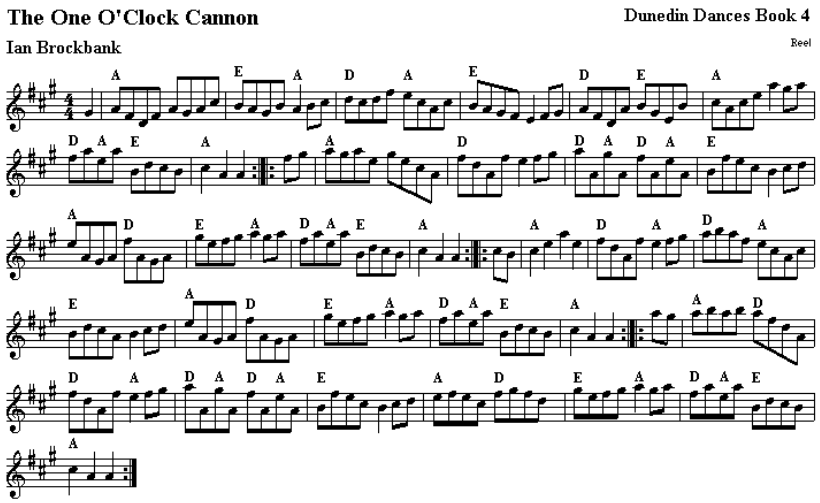
63-64 1st couple cast off into fourth position while 4th couple dance up into second place, or into third place on the last time though the dance.

Third couple now start dancing bars 1-8 while second couple (now in third place) continue with bars 33-40.

Caroline suggested writing a dance which was a canon, and this is what I came up with. The 'One O'Clock Gun' can be heard daily at 1pm in Edinburgh, when a gun is fired from the castle. I didn't realise until the first time I danced it quite how crucial the reel of four is in allowing everyone 8 bars to find themselves again.

This dance was originally published in Dunedin Dances 4, written out as a 160 bar dance. I prefer this format. It takes more thought, but makes the canon clear.

This dance was published in "Dance On!" in August 2005.

Tune: The One O'Clock Cannon *(Ian Brockbank)*

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