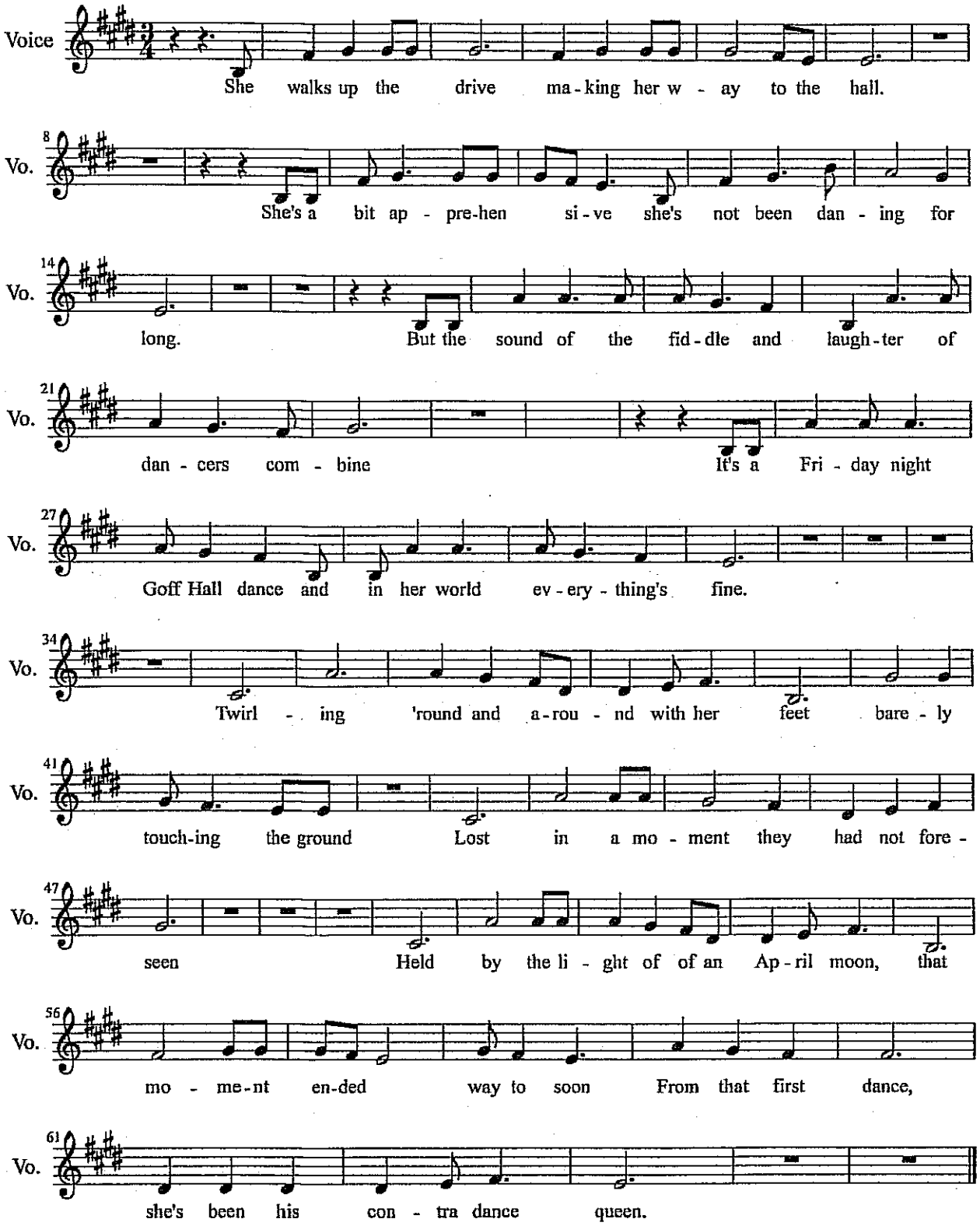
Devotion Waltz

by Eric D. Shaw

Written for and inspired by Linda and Cliff Gordon



Verse 1; She walks up the drive, making her way to the hall
(Just) a bit apprehensive, she's not been dancing for long
But the sound of the fiddle and laughter of dancers combine
It's a Friday night Goff Hall dance and in her world, everything's fine

Verse 2: He walks up beside her, (and) politely he asks for the dance
A quick nod and a smile...she offers her hand
At the speed of a wish they are whirling their way 'round the floor
There's a joy in her step…and a feeling like never before

1st Chorus: Twirling...'round and around -with her
Feet...barely touching the ground
Lost...in...a moment they had not foreseen
Held by the light of an April moon
That moment…ended way too soon
From that first dance, she's been his contra dance queen

Verse 3: Now the years have been many; seasons they go rushing by
And time, though cherished, has passed in the blink of an eye
And were you to question now would they change anything past
They'd just smile and reply; "No regrets…..to the last"

Verse 4: Now they move along carefully, making their way to the hall
She's a bit apprehensive; careful not to stumble or fall
With a wink and a smile he inquires, "Hey, you up for a spin?"…she replies
"Well, I've never been this old before but I'll never be this young again...let's dance"

2nd Chorus: Twirling 'round and around, now her
Feet...barely leaving the ground
Lost in a lifetime of feelings and dreams
Held by the light of an autumn moon
Their dance always ends too soon…and
He's still the one and she's still his contra dance queen

Tag: When the sound of the fiddle and laughter of dancers combine
It's a Friday night Goff Hall dance and in their world everything's fine
Another Friday night Goff Hall dance and in their world everything's fine.

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The Story Behind Devotion Waltz

Linda and Cliff Gordon, have been dancing for decades. One evening, as they were just arriving for the Rehoboth, Massachusetts dance, Cliff told me that the Goff Hall dance has been their favorite venue over the years, and they drive almost an hour and a half to get there. Linda has had to slow down and she can move her feet only an inch or two at a time. It takes some time for them to make it up the ramp to the front door, and they usually arrive halfway through the evening, when the band always plays a waltz. Once the waltz is announced, Cliff helps Linda to her feet, and, in something between "dance position" and a hug, they gently rock back and forth to the music. Not long after that, they slowly make their way back to their car and drive home. I have been so moved by both their steadfast dedication to each other and their passionate love of contra dance (and waltzes, of course) that I wanted to write a song for them—their very own waltz. Last January, I had the pleasure of presenting it to them; they were very touched and pleased to receive it. ~ *E.D.S.*

Editor's note: Our thanks to Shawn Kendrick who introduced us to this lovely waltz. You can hear an mp3 file of composer Eric Shaw singing the song.