No version will be posted here of this common tune with many versions, because I just play whatever the musicians around me are playing. In my written music and .abc collection, the only version is a very old one in the Salmonberry notebook, and I don’t play it nearly that way any more.You can find an excellent standard version in the tunebook “New England Fiddler’s Repertoire.”

It is worth commenting that unlike the tune “Petronella” in D, Green Mt. Petronella in G is sometimes used for a particular dance, and sometimes just as an ordinary reel for any contra dance. For “any contra dance” I really like the slightly “swingy” version(s) played by the band RiffRaff - the house band of the Olympia WA 4th Saturday dance. But Riff Raff is a “by ear” band; I’ve never seen their version written down.

As far as particular dances go, there are two (##)

* By far the most common around the U.S. is White Mountain Petronella (mostly just called “Petronella”). It is the one that begins with the “active” couple twirling over their individual right shoulders into a “diamond” formation, and then balancing, all turn one position, . . .
* Less often danced (namely in VT and environs, and in dance camps and workshops) is Green Mountain Petronella. It is the one that begins in the regular hands-four position (a square) with balances immediately, then turning one position around the square, . . .

The usages of the two tunes to the above dances go mostly like this

* The first dance “should always” use (the tune) Petronella in D or sometimes use a medley of the two; the D tune first. The D tune matches the dance better.
* The second dance “should use” only (the tune) Green Mt. Petronella in G. The G tune fits that dance better.

As with any artistic form, nothing is set in stone; there is lots of individual variation. But I wouldn’t, if I were you, go playing the D Petronella for any other dance but its “name” dance. Except as a joke on experienced dancers (with the advice and consent of the caller).

# There is also a Scottish Country Dance, the precursor of the first dance above, where only the actives (#1 couples) balance and twirl. I’m told that used to be the standard for contras also, the changeover having happened in my lifetime (perhaps at a Dudley Laufman dance), but before I was a dancer.