Frank Ferrel, a founder of Fiddle Tunes Festival in Port Townsend and its Director for its first decade, moved east to the Boston area after that, there to further perfect his fiddling while hanging out with the great Cape Breton and Down East fiddlers at the Canadian-American Club in Needham, MA. He emerged in 1996 with a tunebook called Music for the Feet (Mel Bay Publications), and a pair of CD's, "Moxie" and "Yankee Dreams" (1). Chordwork is by Peter Barnes (now Kate Barnes), his piano backup of the time. Frank has since retired to Maine.

Possibly because he had mainly left the purview of the contra dance world, possibly because the tunes, though crystalline in their beauty, ranged from difficult to really difficult, the contra dance world mainly shrugged. He continued to play contradances occasionally at the Cambridge VFW and the Scouthouse, and teach at Maine Fiddle Camp, but the impact of these great works upon contradance fiddling should have been greater, imo. Perhaps you are at a point of musical career and skill to take up his challenge. (This is one of the easier tunes; it's on the Moxie CD.)

Should you find yourself playing for the "chestnut" dance Lady of the Lake, and you choose to follow the traditions from Maine (where it is ubiquitous) and play the Maine jigs for it, there is imo no more inspiring and appropriate tune than this one, to put on the end (medley below). Otherwise it will inspire as a third tune in any medley where well-phrased jigs are wanted. Don't miss that D chord at the end of bar B6, presaging the "homecoming" to major; Barnes is an artist.

(1) There was another tunebook and CD, focusing on the Boston Irish dance hall tradition of the 1940's/50's, around the same time.

Medleys

Small Pleasures: 2001-present: Little Burnt Potato (A) /Roses in Winter (G) /Yankee Dancers (A)

2002-present: Lady of the Lake Jig (G)/Jimmy's Favorite (G)/Yankee Dancers (A)

Shaun Hubbard & Phil Katz 2002: Jig in A / Priscilla's Jig (G/D, McQuillen) / Yankee Dancers (A)

Phil's solo set 2003 for Folklife: Bob's Own Jig (A, McQ) / Dudley's Jig in A / Yankee Dancers (A)