

Sufi Concentrations
James Burgess

Merrymeet

Words and Music: anonymous Welsh witches

Capo 5

Am G Am

May the Cir cle be o pen but un bro ken May the

love of the go ddes be e ver in your heart Mer ry meet and

G Am G Am

mer ry part and merr y meet ag ain

1. *May the circle be open but unbroken*
2. *May the love of the Goddess*
3. *Be ever in your heart*
4. *Merry meet*
5. *And Merry part*
6. *And Merry meet again*

Define Partners. Arms around neighbours.

- 1 Eight steps backward, beginning on 'circle'. On word 'broken' let go of hands
- 2 Bending forward scooping up from the earth
- 3 Left turn, end facing partner with right hand on partner's heart covered by their left hand
- 4 Half turn right together
- 5 Step back with arms opening to partner
- 6 Arms behind neighbours' backs take eight steps towards centre

A Merrymeet was - and still is - a gathering of witches for the purpose of celebration, initiation, devotion, often far away from prying eyes during the three hundred year period known as "the burning times" which finally came to an end only in the 19th century. The "wise women" are close to nature and know of the healing powers in herbs and other natural methods including a deep sense of the rhythms of the months and years. Men can also be witches and indeed the knowledge is of the balance of male and female so some of the rituals require a man to play his particular role.