

Stay-at-Home Jig

Contrasting Styles

Becki and Nick have most generously recorded Becki's tune three times through, once in unison and then taking it in turns to accompany each other. They are two terrific fiddlers and even though their playing styles are very different they both play with great effect and blend together beautifully. Even their posture demonstrates very differing approaches: Nick is very laid back and yet achieves great energy in his playing whilst Becki is relaxed and very economical and yet her music has great freedom. Whilst you watch and listen to the video, look out for the following:

- In the A part both players are using rolls - both the Irish style 'long roll' or 'cran' on the long F-sharps and the cascading roll when they slur the F-sharp to the E on the D string.
- In the B part syncopated sequence they often use up bows at the start of each bar lending a lovely lightness and lift to the music. Becki in particular uses this technique. Nick uses it as well but see if you can spot him using 'stop bows' as an alternative approach.
- In the B part melody Becki has a lovely smooth and lyrical approach to the phrasing whilst she uses crisp mordents to bring out the articulation. In contrast, Nick brings more slides into his left hand technique whilst being very rhythmic with his bowing.
- Becki's bow distribution is largely confined to the middle two quarters. She is a wonderfully efficient player with great economy of movement. She has great freedom on the longer notes and slurs, but look how she uses tiny little bows with the separate quavers giving great articulation.
- Nick is a much busier player using a faster bow which gives great drive to his playing. It also means he uses more bow but never so much as to lose control. He also spends more time in the upper half of the bow but is not limited to that area. When he goes to the chordal accompaniment, listen to how much energy and rhythmic vitality he achieves using the bow almost as a drum stick!

Many thanks to Nick and Becki for providing this illuminating video. It is such a cracking tune and this is such a wonderful opportunity to see and hear the effectiveness of two contrasting playing styles.