

## ***Dance Party Entertainment***

Providing dance party entertainment for groups that dance infrequently is an opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of dance with those we entertain. Some view these events as opportunities to recruit for the modern square dance activity, I don't. A one night party is a single period of time where the hosts and the participants attend to enjoy the music, dance and fellowship. Enjoyment is the only objective. An introduction to square dancing event like a free night, chili supper, or first night of class, is an event where the hosts want to convince the participants to join the activity by dancing more frequently and the attendees are attempting to identify if this recreation is something they want to do during their discretionary time.

For dance parties the attendees are there to be entertained, to enjoy each other and the music. They didn't come to be permanently engaged in an activity that requires a lot of commitment or knowledge. With enjoyment in mind the entertainer must prepare a wide variety of material that is easy for the participants to execute to great music. Using modern square dance terms, the English language and a variety of formations we can provide entertainment that overcomes gender imbalance and numbers that are not a multiple of 8.

Some start an entertaining evening with a single large circle of people without partners, move to couples in a large circle, then scattering of couples throughout the dance hall, merging of the couples into small circles of 2 or 3 couples, then merging of these small circles into larger circles of 4, 5 or 6 couples. And finally using Sicilian circles of couples, trios, along with contra lines we can accommodate all who desire to dance. The common themes are the square dance basics, the native language of the group, good music and a caller to provide instruction.

When we provide an event that meets or exceeds the entertainment needs of those attending, we set the stage for some eventually being interested in increasing their involvement. The result is easy recruitment to the activity.

### **Sample Dance Program**

A dance program could include squares only with a limited set of basics or you could include a variety of formations with an even more restricted/limited set of basics.

- Big circle – Basics: Circle L/R, Forward/Back, Arm Turns, DoSaDo, Swing, Prom
- Squares – Figures: Circles, Stars
- Circle Mixer(s) – Lancash Barn Dance, Patty Cake Polka, Jiffy Mixer
- Solo Dance(s) – Electric Slide, Rocky Mountain Scramble, Popcorn, Boot Scootin' Boogie, Ruby Baby, Cha Cha Slide, Copperhead Road
- Squares – Figures: Solomon Levi, Divide The Ring,
- Trio(s) – TBC Trio, Clap Dance For Three's
- Contra(s) – No Name Contra, Virginia Reel, Tunnel Contra
- Children's Dances – 7 Jumps, Birdie/Chicken Dance, Hokey Pokey, Toody Ta
- Other Dances – Ding Dong Daddy, Phrase Craze
- Ending(s) –

- Simple goodnight: Single circle ... say announcements ... allow anyone to say a special thank you ... all raise hands and all say goodnight.
- Singing goodnight: “Good night ladies, good night gentlemen, good night everyone, we have to leave you now .... Merrily we roll along, roll along, roll along, merrily we roll along, o’er the deep blue sea.”

### **Dance Party Variations: Community/Church/Barn Dance – Contemporary Music**

- Big circle – Figures: Circle L/R, Fwd/Bck, Arm Turns, Swing, Prom
  - Music: Honeycomb Fiddler, Boogie Beat, Funky Town
- Squares – Figures: Circles / Stars figure, Solomon Levi figure, Divide the Ring figure, Push/Pull figure
  - Music: Rachel, Thumping Banjo, Takes Two
- Circle Mixer (s) –
  - Lancash Barn Dance – I’m From The Country
  - Patty Cake Polka – Patty Cake Polka
  - Jiffy Mixer – Hit The Road Jack, Walk Don’t Run
- Solo Dance(s)
  - Boot Scootin’ Boogie..... Boot Scootin’ Boogie
  - Cha Cha Slide..... Cha Cha Slide
  - Copperhead Road..... Copperhead Road
  - Cupid Shuffle ..... Cupid Shuffle
  - Electric Slide ..... Electric Boogie
  - Rocky Mountain Scramble ..... Pop’s Hoedown, Wildman
- Trio(s) –
  - TBC Trio – San Antonio Stroll
  - Clap Dance For Three’s – Clap Dance For Three’s or any 64 count tune
  - Do-Ci-Dizzy – Just Dance by Lady Gaga
- Contra(s) –
  - No Name Contra – any 64 count reel
  - Virginia Reel – Virginia Reel
- Children’s Dances – 7 Jumps, Birdie Dance, Hokey Pokey, Toody Ta
- Ending(s) –
  - Circle: “Good night ladies, good night gentlemen, good night everyone, we have to leave you now .... Merrily we roll along, roll along, roll along, merrily we roll along, o’er the deep blue sea.”

## Dance Party Variations: Community/Church/Barn Dance – Traditional Music

- Big circle – Figures: Circle L/R, Fwd/Bck, Arm Turns, Swing, Prom
  - Music: Beaumont Rag, Cross The Mountain, Flop-Eared Mule
- Squares – Figures: Circles, Stars
  - Music: Steve Green, Hell Broke Loose in GA
- Circle Mixer (s) –
  - Lancash Barn Dance – Lancash Barn Dance
  - Patty Cake Polka – Patty Cake Polka
  - Jiffy Mixer – Jiffy Mixer
- Solo Dance(s)
  - Electric Slide – Electric Boogie
  - Rocky Mountain Scramble – Pop’s Hoedown, Wildman
  - Boot Scootin’ Boogie – Boot Scootin’ Boogie
- Squares – Figures: Solomon Levi, Divide The Ring
  - Music: Bile The Cabbages Down, New Chinese Breakdown, Yellow Creek, , Push Old Pa, Push Old Ma
- Singing Squares –
  - Just Because, Solomon Levi
- Trio(s) –
  - TBC Trio – San Antonio Stroll
  - Clap Dance For Three’s – Clap Dance For Three’s
  - Do-Ci-Dizzy – Fletcher’s Folly
- Contra(s) –
  - No Name Contra – any 64 count reel
  - Virginia Reel – Virginia Reel
- Children’s Dances – 7 Jumps, Birdie Dance, Hokey Pokey, Toody Ta
- Other – Ding Dong Daddy, Phrase Craze
- Ending(s) –
  - Circle: “Good night ladies, good night gentlemen, good night everyone, we have to leave you now .... Merrily we roll along, roll along, roll along, merrily we roll along, o’er the deep blue sea.”

## References:

- Book: Dancing for Busy People ... contact Calvin Campbell, [calcampbl@gmail.com](mailto:calcampbl@gmail.com)
- Dancing for Busy People website: <http://d4bp.com/wp/>
- Periodic publication: CD Journal from Callerlab Committee for Community & Traditional Dance
- Callerlab dance resource site: [www.Dances.callerlab.org](http://www.Dances.callerlab.org)