

Dance activities in ECTA

Seminar content:

This seminar is to show the common roots and to point out the specialties of each dance form:

- Square Dance (General Information, History, Square Dance Programs)
- Round Dance (General Information, Rhythms, Phase Rating System, Class, RD Clubs, Special dances for high level dances, how to become active ECTA-RD member, RD Council, ECTA-RD repertoire, History)
- Clogging (General Information, History, Different style directions, Levels, Technical jargon)
- Contra & Traditional (*General Information, History, Traditional Squares*)

It is suggested, that *all leaders visit a practical introduction to the other dance forms* (e.g. at Jamborees, Student Jamboree or ECTA Conventions).

Square Dancing

General Information

- To dance, a square (4 couples) and a caller is needed
- Caller combines the Square Dance Figures (Calls) in his/her own idea, the dancers don't know, what follows next.
- A Square Dance Evening can consist of a various number of "Tips".
- A Tip normally includes Patter ("Hash") and Singing Call
- The Singing Call is (mostly) structured in 7x 64 beats (Opener, 2x Figure, Middle break, 2x Figure, Closer).
- Singing Call includes a ladychange – clockwise or counter clockwise, ending with original partner
- Responsible for worldwide Square Dance Programs: CALLERLAB

History

- Roots in Europe (England Morris Dance / France Quadrille)
- Appalachian Country Dances, then Western Square Dancing
- Influences through Ford, Lovett & Shaw
- Moving on to Modern Western Square Dancing (public address systems, choreography, SD-Clubs and Classes, standardization of calls through CALLERLAB)

Square Dance Programs

- Worldwide CALLERLAB recognized dance programs are: Basic, Mainstream, Plus, Advanced 1 & 2 (A1/ A2), Challenge 1-4 (C1, C2, C3a, C3b, C4)

Round Dancing

General Information

- Round dance is danced as couples
- In a big circle.
- The figures are given ahead of time by the cuer.
- Usually the dancer does not learn a full choreography, but only single figures (like in SD).
- In RD there is no singing call.

Rhythms:

2step, Waltz, Fox, Quickstep, Tango, Cha-Cha, Rumba, Mambo, Slow 2step, Bolero, Jive, Samba, Salsa, Paso Doble, West Coast Swing, Single Swing (and some more).

Phase Rating System

- The steps of RD are grouped in 6 phases, phase I to VI. In phase I there only are steps like “side”, “forward” and so on. So most dancers will think, that the phase rating system starts with phase II.
- On a flyer for any special dance, the RAL phase should be indicated.

Class

- There is no such a clear definition (like in SD), what you learn in a class.
- In a beginner class a dancer usually learns 2step, waltz, cha and rumba from phase II and III.

RD Clubs

- Most RD clubs in Germany dance in the phase III-IV, which may be considered to be an intermediate level.

Special dances for high level dances

- Phase V and VI dances can be learned at special dances (like Ehringerfeld, Burg Rieneck or Cham).
- Hash cueing is more and more used in RD.

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| SD | RD |
| Caller | Cuer |
| Pattern | Hash |
| CALLERLAB | ROUNDALAB |

To become active ECTA member,

- the cuer has to pass a test.
 - a) either for cuer
 - b) or for cuer/teacher

RD Council

- On each Jamboree there is a RD council meeting. Among other things, the council decides, which dances will be taught at the next Jamboree.

ECTA repertoire

- Each dance, which has been taught at an official event, automatically becomes part of the so called “ECTA repertoire” with experimental status. And after one year, it will be decided, if the dance stays in ECTA repertoire or will be dropped.
- At official dance events, the dances listed in the ECTA repertoire, may be used without any teaching. Other dances may be used, if they “can be done to cues” by the dancers present.

History:

- There is an organisation in the US, working on the definitions of the figures and on the phase rating system: Roundalab (like Callerlab for SD).

Clogging

General Information

- Clogging is a mixture of the dances that were brought into North America by the immigrants and mixed with the existing dances of the natives of the New World (e.g. Indians – Shuffles, Germans – Kicks, Irish – Hops,)
- The name clogging comes from the Gaelic word – clog, which means time. We are clogging = We are dancing in time to the music.
- The British Queen Mum, who was visiting the U.S., remarked that the steps she saw reminded her of the clogging done in her country.
- A clogging leader is called Instructor
- To become an active Instructor a test must be passed (Make requirements/conditions known)
- Pre-announcing the steps that are to be danced is called Cueing
- Clogging Council
- There is no worldwide standard norm for the clogging steps, only within ECTA
- List of Steps (Step sheets)
- Repertoire list
- Various formations (line, circle, couples,...)
- ECTA Clog Convention
- In the US, there are competitions in clogging, (in Europe not)

History

- Leader since 1994 in ECTA
- First written collection of steps from Sheila Popwell

Different style directions

- Appalachien
- Buck
- Canadian
- Freestyle
- Flatfoot
- Irisch
- Jazz

**Levels:**

- Easy (List of Steps, ends with graduation)
- Easy – Intermediate (List of Steps)
- Intermediate (List of Steps)
- Advanced

Technical jargon

- Cue Sheet
- Instructor
- Syllabus
- Taps
- Workshop
- Warm up – cool down

Contra Dance**General Information**

- Dance as couples but interact with many couples.
- Sequence of figures is learned (walk thru) only for the duration of the dance
- Sequence of figures remains the same for the duration of the dance (no hash calling)
- Dance speed varies from 108 -124 bpm
- Contra dances does not have levels but some dances are quite intricate.
- Different formations : circles, lines/lanes, squares, hexagons even triangles
- Different rhythms: jigs, reels, hornpipes, polkas, waltzes Music is usually well phrased
- Pre-announcing the steps that are to be danced is called prompting.

One international organization for contra dance leaders is CONTRALAB. CONTRALAB does not issue any directives.

CDSS 2014 50 years of promotion of Contra dance in New England

History

- Contra dance evolved from dances done in Europe in 17th century
- Contra dance continually danced in New England since 1650.
- Contra and Traditional – ECTA Branch since 1996

Traditional Squares**General Information**

- Typical dances from Appalachian Mountain area
- South West and North East
- Dance speed varies from 120 -150 bpm
- Most squares are learned by dancing them in workshops
- Visiting couple dances, and Quadrilles are main types
- Musical phrase is not always adhered to.

History**see square dance**

Dance elements come from European folk dances. Developed need for a caller during westward expansion.



Lloyd Shaw Foundation is one of several organizations supporting Traditional Square Dance and Contra Dance.

| Review Nr. | Changes | Release | Contrib. | Date |
|-------------------|--|----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. | First merge | | JS, MP, AK,CDB | 2003/4/20 |
| x. | Separation from documents with all topics in single documents with reviewed layout | | CW | 2010/01/24 |
| 2. | Review | | AK, CDB | 2011/05/16 |
| 3. | Review | | FH, MP, HK | 2011/12/30 |
| 4. | Review CL part, Layout | | AK | 2016/01/07 |
| 5. | Update for website | | EH | 2018/04/29 |
| 6. | No changes | 1.7 | EH | 2021/10/05 |