

Milestones

Traditional Dance, Music, and Song Groups Celebrating Anniversaries

Minneapolis-based Tapestry Folkdance Center Celebrates 35th Anniversary

Tapestry Folkdance Center can now devote all its energy towards growing the organization without the burden of a mortgage. It didn't happen overnight. Thirty-five years ago, Twin Cities folk dancers dreamed of forming a non-profit organization to support many kinds of folk dancing, and in June of that year the dream became reality. In the beginning, Tapestry dancers rented spaces but the community longed to own building. In May 1999, the dream came true and in December 2017, the final mortgage payment was sent!

By now, thousands of people have danced at Tapestry. Because we own our building, we host a dance community greater than the sum of its parts. In addition to the eight weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly social dance programs at the heart of the organization, Tapestry rents space to several dance organizations. New callers have taken the opportunity to develop their craft within their own supportive community, and now call or teach all over the United States. Love has bloomed at Tapestry—we've lost count of the folk who met their significant others during one of our events. Now, their offspring are active members of the dance community.

We'll celebrate Tapestry's 35th anniversary June 14-17, 2018 with old favorites like International, contra, family dance, and English country dance, and newer



programs like bollywood and ballroom dance. We'll showcase offerings from our renters and honor founders and supporters of Tapestry, with special guest addresses by Katy German, new CDSS Executive Director, and others. A special contra dance featuring David Kirchner and Contratopia will close out the evening.



Ten Years of the Georgy-Alabam All-Square Dance Weekend

When planning a special dance event, the usual order is for the sponsors to hatch up an idea, then try to find the perfect place to hold it. But in the case of Georgy Alabam, an all-traditional square dance weekend conceived of by dancing friends from Atlanta and Birmingham, the place came first—Bald Rock Lodge on top of Mt. Cheaha, in a state park near the Georgia/Alabama state line. Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps and opened to the public in 1942, it's built of stone and wood, with floor-to-ceiling windows and a rectangular wooden floor perfect for dancing.

This was a dance hall waiting for an event. It's probably too small for a contra event—but that was no problem. We all love to dance squares and sport some of the best old-time bands in the region. Thus Georgy Alabam all-square dance weekend was born in 2009. The name does double duty, referring to the location (“plum out of Georgia and nearly out of Alabama”), and also to an old square dance figure... “corner lady with the right hand around, partner by the left...”

Our first guest caller was North Carolina's Phil Jamison, who shared the mic with Scott Russell, an Atlanta caller who learned his skills from Sandy Bradley. That first year, we had no budget, because we had no money. We billed our event as “all-volunteer.” Bands, callers, and sound techs came from Birmingham and Atlanta, and we did not lack for great music. All the dancers signed up for a chore, such as kitchen duty, keeping the fire going, setting up the hall, clearing the hall, and so forth. We crossed our fingers and hoped folks would come—and they did.

Our format is a welcome dance Friday night; dances, workshops, jamming and napping during the day on Saturday; a Saturday night dance; and a Sunday morning farewell dance and potluck/leftovers lunch.

Over the years, we've offered workshops in flat footing, round-table discussions for callers, West Virginia squares, squares from Maritime Canada, opportunities for up-and-coming callers to try a dance, Lloyd Shaw's cowboy

dances, square dance technique, the “Zen” of the big set, New England squares to Southern music, and of course, time for lots of jamming. We’ve recently added “work-study” scholarships for younger dancers to help the next generation get hooked on squares.



Dancing at the Georgy-Alabam

When it looked like we had a successful event, Georgy Alabam was “adopted” by Birmingham FOOTMAD, giving us the financial stability to offer stipends to our callers and bands.

Come join us in 2019 for our tenth anniversary with caller Phil Jamison and three rocking old-time, Southern bands. For more information, visit the Birmingham Friends of Old-Time Music and Dance at footmadbirmingham.org.



Thirty Years of New England Dancing Masters

On Saturday, April 21, almost 100 folks of all ages converged on the Evening Star Grange in East Dummerston, VT, for a community dance sponsored by the Village Dance Series in celebration of New England Dancing Masters' 30 years of collecting and publishing traditional dances and singing games for children and communities.

The four New England Dancing Masters, Andy Davis, Mary Cay Brass, Mary Alice Amidon and Peter Amidon, called and played (accordions and piano) at this joyous event, along with guest fiddler (and Village Dance regular) Laurie Indenbaum.

In the 1980s, before they founded New England Dancing Masters, Andy, Mary Cay, Mary Alice, and Peter had been regulars, both as dancers and musicians, at the contra dances in East Putney, Vermont, Northfield, Massachusetts, and Nelson, New Hampshire when they all started teaching elementary school music. The four music teachers met regularly to exchange dances and songs to

use in their elementary school music teaching. They were all learning and adapting traditional dances learned at dances, traditional dance folk camps and from published collections of dances. When one of them found or adapted a dance that was successful in the classroom they would share it with the group.

In addition to his music teaching, Peter Amidon was leading elementary school residencies in traditional dance and music. He would visit a school for a few days, leading dancing to his accordion playing. But he realized that once the residency was over the students couldn't do the dances because they no longer had the music. So in 1988 he proposed to Mary Cay, Andy, and Mary Alice that they record a cassette of some of the dance tunes that Peter could leave behind. As they talked about it, the four decided to publish a companion book of the dances. One of their favorites was Chimes of Dunkirk, learned from New Hampshire dance caller Dudley Laufman, so gave their new book the title: *Chimes of Dunkirk: Great Dances for Children*, published it in 1991, and named their publishing company New England Dancing Masters (NEDM).

Somehow the *Chimes of Dunkirk* collection found its way into major children's music education distributors catalogues, and the NEDM were



surprised to be suddenly selling hundreds of books every year (including through CDSS). In 1993 they published *Jump Jim Joe: Great Singing Games for Children* (now *Rise Sally Rise*) and the two collections quickly became classics for elementary school teachers across the United States.

Since then the NEDM four have published five more book/CD dance collections and three DVDs. "We had no idea that our little 1988 brainchild of a book and companion cassette tape would turn into such a significant force in American dance education," Peter Amidon says.

You can find out more about New England Dancing Masters at dancingmasters.com.

WEB EXTRA: Watch Peter and Mary Alice Amidon tell a story through song during the April 21st community dance event: cdss.org/news

We're Already 5: A Song Celebrating 5 years of Contra Dance in South Louisiana

Sung to the tune of Old Joe Clark

Chorus (repeat w/instruments only)

Hey let's go and Do-si-do

Circle to the right

Feels so sweet to move your feet

Let's have a dance tonight

First we mastered Forward and Back

Then ol' Buzz-step Swing

Balances and Ladies Chains

Let the banjo ring.

Soon we wove our Heys with ease

Made sweet left-hand stars

Danced to lovely Old-time tunes

On fiddle & guitar.

Chorus

With roots in English country dance,

Jigs and Scottish reels,

Our name is borrowed from the French

So we kick up our heels.

Dancers hail from Baton Rouge,

Mississippi, New Orleans,

Lafayette, Houston, Brazil,

And all points in between.

Chorus

Spin your neighbor round the room

Do not finish early

Swing your partner 'cross the hall

Until you're topsy turvy

Swing the kitchen staff—that's Ben

Swing the Web Guru,

Swing the Sound Crew and the Band

Hug the Caller too!

Chorus

Yes we zig when we should zag

And name tags stick to the floor.

We mop it up with a courtesy turn

And then we dance some more.

We love to dance in an Anglican hall

To music that is live.

Contra is 3 centuries old

And we're already 5!

Chorus

Lady of the Lake

At Camp N-Sid-Sen on the shores of Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

2018 Music and Dance Camps 2018

 **Music and Dance Week**
for teens and adults

**Spin (Rodney Miller, David Bartley, Anita Anderson);
Uncle Farmer (Ben Schreiber, Michael Sokolovsky);
The Canote Brothers; George Penk & Heather Pinney;
Will Mentor, Cis Hinkle, Erik Weberg**

June 24th-30th
(Sunday – Saturday)

 **Family Music and Dance Week**
music, dance, & more for the whole family

**In Tent City (Betz, Graham, Seth, & David Richards);
The Canote Brothers; Susan Michaels; Mel Luedders
Darryl Thomas & Valerie Bergman; more staff TBA**

Aug 19th-25th
(Sunday – Saturday)

 **Fall Music and Dance Weekend**
for teens and adults

Uncle Farmer; Susan Petrick; Northern Contraband

Oct 5th-7th
(Friday – Sunday)

www.ladyofthelake.org

Come to Southern California & Dance with Us!

Labor Day Dance Away

Julian CA • Aug 31-Sept 3, 2018

Music by:

Toss the Possum
Laura Zisette, Rob Zisette, Bonnie Insull
& **Curious George & the ABCs**
George Paul, Ashley Broder, Ben Schreiber, Christa Burch

Calling by: Seth Tepfer and Terry Doyle

Fiddling Frog Dance Festival

Pasadena CA • Feb 22-24, 2019

Music by:

**The Free Raisins &
Eloise & Company**

Calling by: Lisa Greenleaf and Bob Isaacs

See our website: CalDanceCoop.org
for more information on our weekly dances.