

BELFAST.FLYING.SHOES.DANCE.SERIES

First Fridays under the disco ball <http://www.belfastflyingshoes.org>

COMMUNITY.DANCE

6:30 pm Chrissy Fowler calling with an All-Comers Band

CONTRA.DANCE

8:00 pm Guest callers and musicians

MISSION:

The mission of Belfast Flying Shoes is to bolster the spirited dance community in Midcoast Maine.

We do this in part by deliberately weaving three strands into the fabric of a monthly series:

- ~ **The Community Dance** – Fun and simple dances, such as those presented at weddings or schools. Calling by Chrissy Fowler. Music by the All-Comers Band, led by a core ensemble and open to all musicians. New dancers, experienced dancers, families, and musicians all collaborate to create the event.
- ~ **The Social Break** – A sociable half-hour between the Community and Contra dances, with emphasis on strengthening community connections through shared conversation.
- ~ **The Contra Dance** – Zesty dances and tunes in a program of contras and squares presented by a variety of talented callers and musicians, especially touring performers. Expectations for this particular thread are colored by committee members' collective experiences in other exciting dance communities.

DETAILS:

(...)

*** CONTRA DANCE SCHEDULE ***

7:55 - Musicians can play a warm-up polka, as part of the sound check.

8:00 - Dance starts.

9:20ish (flexible) - Just before the caller teaches the walkthrough for the last contra before the break, organizers make announcements/acknowledgements. After that dance, band plays a waltz and organizers do the door prize drawing from the caller mic.

9:45ish (flexible) - After a short break (15 min) the band typically plays a couple dance (schottische, hambo, other) to get things going again.

11:00ish (flexible) - The dance ends any time after 11:00. Often we run a little over to 11:05 or 11:10.

*** CALLERS ***

~~~ PLEASE READ THIS INFO ~~~

- Our series welcomes new dancers. Expect relative novices and rank beginners of all ages, especially young people, to join the contradance.
- Experienced dancers at our series range in age from seven to seventy, and are friendly, enthusiastic, and used to the core contra figures.
- Our overall style has been described as evincing our lumberjack/fisherman/back-to-the-lander roots.
- We appreciate judiciously sprinkled tips and reminders of ways to make dancing fun and safe for everyone. A few of these style tips, either simply described from the stage or demonstrated on the floor, and definitely issued with good cheer or humor, are encouraged by the committee and will be welcomed by most dancers.
- **DIRECTLY TEACH THE SWING** at some point in the first half.

- We prefer reasonably interesting dances with logical flow (enabling us to enjoy the music and each other) over complex choreography that requires intense concentration (hampering our enjoyment).
- Although most dancers will expect a program that is primarily duple improper or becket contras, the committee strongly encourages inclusion of a few other dances, in part to broaden our community's horizons. ("Other" could be a different formation, such as a circle, square, four-face-four, Sicilian circle, or triplet; or another type, such as chestnuts or mixers.)
- As you look out from the stage, the set furthest to your left is the one most likely to fall apart. Newcomers congregate there. Also, the floor slopes toward the stage on that side of the hall, so with four or five sets, the left-most 2 sets will squash toward the stage. Remind those sets to leave space at the top, and to resist the urge to slide toward the stage.
- The hall is often extremely crowded, with a very high percentage of newcomers. The mood is generally one of elation and good cheer, but the combination of unskilled dancing, rowdy enthusiasm, and very little elbow room makes for a dance experience that some might consider unpleasant, perhaps even unsafe. Keep this in mind when programming, teaching and calling. (Space and safety considerations may preclude inclusion of squares or circles.)
- Our ARCHIVE BOOK lists past programs, which you may refer to before/during the dance. Please record your actual program there – name of dance, composer/author, comments, etc.
- **NOTE:** We asked you to call for us because **we think you'll be a good fit with our series**. We believe you can help the dancers and the band have a great night, so keep all of the above hints in mind, but call to your strengths.
- Check with us before your dance is scheduled, to see if things have changed, and to see what other insights we might offer.
- **A version of this Caller Info is in the Archive Book, for reference on dance night.**
- Contact Chrissy (ktaadn_me@hotmail.com) if you have any questions about calling for our series.

(...)

With many thanks, and encouragement to contact me with any questions or comments,

Chrissy Fowler, BFS Booking Coordinator

93 Kaler Rd, Belfast, ME 04915

[\(207\) 338-0979](tel:(207)338-0979), belfastflyingshoes@gmail.com cell for night of dance only – [\(207\) 323-5665](tel:(207)323-5665)

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