

A HISTORIC CHALLENGE

As this article is being written, our world has entered a phase of day-to-day life that has not been seen in modern times. With the spread of the novel coronavirus, square and round dancing came to an abrupt halt during the second weekend of March and as of this writing, will continue to be "dark" for the foreseeable future.

We know this shut down is necessary but temporary. I have been consistent in reminding our dancers that WE WILL return to dancing. We will be dressing up for the dance, greeting our friends and getting squared up in excited anticipation of the good times to come. With so much false information being pedaled in news media and social media, most of it intended to raise the anxiety of the reader, some of us have consistently shared a message of hope. We will return to dancing.

Now comes a new challenge. Never in our history has 100% of our dance population been forced to stop all activity for such an extended period of time. Our dance population has been forced to quit dancing and that is bad. Experience tells us that when someone quits an activity once, it is easier to quit again. We've seen this with many dancers who dance a while, quit, come back, quit again. This is not to say that our entire dance population will find it easy to quit, but we need to be careful when our dances resume.

When our dancers start coming back, we will find these folks are very sensitive to health hazards in their environment. We should respect that sense and sensibility by making sure we continue to offer hand sanitizer at our dances, that we encourage folks to wash their hands after every tip. We should clearly message that if anyone is feeling sick, please stay home and we may need to police our dances, to get sick people to go home.

We must be in tune with the fact that our dancers have not danced for many weeks, perhaps months. Their ability to remember calls will be impaired by the fact they haven't heard the calls for quite some time. Their physical abilities may be lessened by lack of activity while restricted to their homes. The feeling of being winded or the dancing seems so much faster than it did before the shut down. Not understanding a delayed mental response to calls that were so comfortable before the shut down. All of these may create frustration with our dancers. If we are not careful, we will replace the excited anticipation of dancing with an appalling feeling of frustration. If we are not careful, we will make quitting again seem better than staying with an activity that is no longer fun; no longer theirs.

We, as callers, must seriously adjust our expectations and execution. We, as club dancers and leaders, must also adjust our expectations. The shut down of 2020 has showed us something that many folks couldn't comprehend. That square dancing is more than executing calls; it is social. When we isolated ourselves, we missed the social much more than the "Spin The Top". This should be a wake up call for all of us to embrace the social aspects of square dancing, making it a higher priority than dance level or dance proficiency.

We could take this message of social connection to the non-dancing public, coming out of shelter-at-home and aching for connection with people. We could be sitting on the precipice of a new boom in square dancing. Again, if we are willing to put aside ideas of dance levels and high

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numbers of calls. We have at our finger-tips, working ideas like Sustainable Square Dancing that could get new dancers into a club setting in weeks. Fun, easy to join, social like they've never known. We have a public waiting for us, are we up to the challenge or will we drop the ball and insist on going right back the way we've always done it. This is a historic challenge and I'm here to help any of you open to guidance. Please send your emails to buddy@buddyweaver.com. Find me on facebook on the following pages: Buddy Weaver, Blue Star Square Dance Music, New Hi Hat Square Dance Music, and Rawhide Square Dance Music.

This month has a lot of new releases, but I expect very little in the coming months as our shutdown impacts the music industry. In anticipation of this, I've tried to spread some releases to later months.

Singing Calls

BEER IN MEXICO

Arrowhead Recordings 1138 by Dean Singleton

Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. It sounds like Arrowhead is using music from Circle Left Studios. Typical great music from this Nashville studio. Easy to follow tune with leads clearly played by guitar, piano, and organ. The same instruments play lots of fill notes. An exciting country sound to this country song (Kenny Chesney). Tracks include music with and without background vocals. May need to adjust speed.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Right & Left Thru – Veer Left – Couples Circulate – Half Tag – Scoot Back – Swing

EVERY LITTLE HONKY TONK BAR

Chic Recordings 1066 by Charlie Robertson

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. The tune is easy to follow with clear leads played by keyboard, piano, and guitar. Lots of piano and guitar work in the background. Pretty music that is signature of the Chic sound. A George Strait country song played in a country/pop style. Laid back. Tracks include music with and without melody/harmony.

Heads Square Thru – Do Sa Do – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Bend the Line - Right & Left Thru – Flutterwheel – Slide Thru - Swing

EVERY LITTLE HONKY TONK BAR

Chic Recordings 2066 by Patty Greene

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Musically very similar to Chic 1066 except in a key better suited for female voices. Leads played by guitar are stronger on this version. Tracks include music with and without lead/background vocals. Figure is a right-hand lady progression.

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Heads Square Thru – Do Sa Do – Spin Chain Thru – Girls Circulate Twice – Turn Thru – Left Allemande – Walk By One - Swing

APPLALACHIAN MOUNTAIN GIRL

Chinook Records 244 by Doug Davis

Tempo: 127 Rhythm: Boom-chuck

Dance beat sits behind the chords. The tune is easy to follow with clear leads played by guitar, mandolin, and banjo. An exciting bluegrass feel to this Alan Jackson country song. Tracks include music with and without background vocals.

Heads Pass Thru – Cloverleaf – Sides Square Thru Three – Do Sa Do – Touch a Quarter – Split Circulate Twice – Swing

THE HAPPY WANDERER

Coyote Records 845 by Don Coy

Tempo: 125 Rhythm: Boom-chuck

Good dance beat. Leads are clearly played by piano, accordion, and guitar with plenty of fills from the same musicians. The familiar tune is easy to follow. This reviewer doesn't remember this song done as singing call before. Dancers will enjoy singing "valderi, valdera". Music is played in an exciting country style.

Heads Promenade Full – Sides Square Thru – Touch a Quarter – Scoot Back – Boy Fold – Girl Turn Back – Swing

WONDERFUL TONIGHT

Crest Recordings 167 by Scott Bennett

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. The leads are lightly played against the chords so the caller will have to know the tune. Fills are out-front. Music from guitar, piano, and saxophone. An Eric Clapton classic that is done in a relaxing rock style. Callers can croon this release. Tracks include music with and without melody.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Right & Left Thru – Pass Thru – Trade By – Star Thru – Square Thru Three – Swing

FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN

ESP 1183 by Elmer Sheffield and Bronc Wise

Tempo: 124 Rhythm: Boom-chuck

Good dance beat. Clear leads played by mandolin, guitar, and piano make the tune easy to follow. Lots of fill notes from the same musicians plus banjo in the background throughout. Great lively country music to a traditional bluegrass song.

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Heads Pass Thru – Separate Round One to a Line – Star Thru – Double Pass Thru – Centers In – Cast Off $\frac{3}{4}$ – Star Thru – Centers Pass Thru - Swing

MY LIFE

Gold Wing Records 184 by Darin Keith
Tempo: 124 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. The intro is reminiscent of the original song. The familiar tune is clearly played by keyboard leads throughout. Some nice keyboard fills in places. A Billy Joel classic done in pop style. Middle of the road energy-wise. Tracks include music with and without melody.

Heads Square Thru – Do Sa Do – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Ferris Wheel – Pass Thru – Slide Thru – Square Thru Three - Swing

NEW PATCHES (OLD GARMENTS)

Hi Hat Music 5360 by Jerry Gilbreath
Tempo: 127 Rhythm: Boom-Chuck

Good dance beat. Singing call is chords played with fills and background singers so callers will have to know the tune. Music from fiddle, piano, steel and acoustic guitars. A Don Williams country song, played in country style. Middle of the energy scale.

Heads Square Thru – Do Sa Do – Swing Thru – Spin the Top – Right & Left Thru – Square Thru Three – Swing

COUNTRY ROADS

Rawhide Music 1241 by Buddy Weaver
Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Boom-Chuck

Good dance beat. Two musical versions included, one with clear leads and another strong leads. Another familiar tune played by mandolin, keyboard, and guitar. The same instruments provide fills. A John Denver classic sing-along played in an exciting country style. Key change on close adds energy. From Rawhide studio tape.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Lead Right – Circle to a Line – Right & Left Thru – Dixie Style – All Cross Run – Recycle – Pass Thru – Swing

SINGLE MAN

Rhythm International 926 by Keita Takahata
Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Boom-chuck

Good dance beat with added hand-clapping for extra percussion. Leads are clearly played by mandolin, dobro, and guitar. Lots of strong fills. Exciting country music to a country song (High Valley). Key change on close adds even more energy.

Heads Square Thru – Do Sa Do - Swing Thru – Boy Run – Ferris Wheel – Pass Thru – Touch a Quarter – Scoot Back Twice – Swing

CLOSE TO YOU

Rhythm International 927 by Nao Nittono, Rascal Araki

Tempo: 120 Rhythm: Shuffle

Piano introduction is so close to the original. Good dance beat. Clear leads played by piano, guitar, and flute make a familiar tune easy to follow. Strong fill notes from the same instruments. A Carpenter's classic is played in a relaxing country style. Background vocals are in the music.

the tune with lots of strong fill notes. Music from piano, electronic flute, and guitar. A contemporary rock song (Alternate Routes) played in a laid-back country style. A relaxing number. Tracks include music with and without harmony.

Four Ladies Chain - Heads Promenade Halfway – Sides Star Thru – Pass Thru – Do Sa Do – Eight Chain Five – Left Allemande – Promenade

I'LL BE YOUR BABY TONIGHT

Rhythm Records 367 by Adam Christman

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. The tune is easy to find with clear leads played by harmonica, dobro, and piano. Lots of strong fills from the same instruments. A Latin feel to this pop sing along. Mid-way up the energy chart. Tracks include music with and without harmony.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Right & Left Thru – Veer Left – Couples Circulate – Half Tag – Scoot Back – Swing

WHAT IF IT WORKED LIKE THAT

Rhythm Records 368 by Wade Driver

Tempo: 124 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Clear leads make the tune easy to follow. Strong fills around the caller. Music from fiddle, guitar, and piano. A Don Williams country song played in country style. Middle of the energy scale. Tracks include music with and without harmony.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Touch a Quarter – Scoot Back – Boy Run – Star Thru – Pass Thru – Trade By – Slide Thru And Roll – Swing

DREAM SOFTLY

Riverboat Records 1009 by Duke Okada, Mitchell Osawa, Kumi Takahashi

Tempo: 124 Rhythm: Boom-chuck

Good dance beat. A tune that is easy to follow clearly played by fiddle, dobro, and mandolin. The same musicians play lots of fill notes. A lively country/bluegrass rendition of a bluegrass song. Tracks include music with and without background vocals.

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Heads Square Thru – Split Two Round One to a line – Pass Thru – Tag the Line – Cloverleaf – Double Pass Thru – Face In – Star Thru – Swing

SHINE YOUR WAY

Riverboat Records 1016 by Kiyomi Taneyama, Max Ringe
Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Very good dance beat. Interesting intro with a very percussive, modern sound. Clear leads played by steel drum, piano, and guitar make the tune easy to find. Lots of strong fills from the same instruments. A lively modern piece made popular by Owl City. Tracks include music with and without both male and female back up vocals.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Right & Left Thru – Veer Left – Ferris Wheel – Square Thru Three – Swing

A COUNTRY BOY LIKE ME

Riverboat Records 1011 by Jack O'Leary
Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Boom-chuck

Good dance beat. The tune is clearly played by steel, dobro, and guitar. Lots of fills from the same. All strings play a lively country sound for a Daniel O'Donnell folk/country song.

Heads Square Thru – Do Sa Do – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Ferris Wheel – Right & Left Thru – Half Sashay – U Turn Back – Swing

SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET

Royal Records 279 by Tony Oxendine
Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Shuffle

A slow, pretty piano intro opens up to a good dance beat. A familiar tune played with strong leads by clarinet, piano, and guitar. Lots of fill notes from the same plus fiddle. Musical breaks for interest on all figure stanzas. The old sing along gets a modern, jazz feel that callers may croon. May need to adjust speed.

Heads Square Thru – Do Sa Do – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Ferris Wheel – Pass Thru – Touch a Quarter – Scoot Back Twice – Swing

LOCOMOTION

SharpShooter 1058 by Lorne Clayton
Tempo: 130 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. A familiar tune played with strong leads on most stanzas. Melody played by keyboard throughout. Lots of electric guitar work in the background. A very percussive feel to this rock classic. Watch out, the labeling on the tracks was backwards (without melody vs. with melody) Tracks include music with and without melody/background vocals. May need to adjust word meter and speed.

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Heads Square Thru – Do Sa Do – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Tag the Line – Cloverleaf - Girls Square Thru Three – Swing

IN MY LIFE

Sting Productions 21705 by Maarten Weijers
Tempo: 130 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Clear leads playing a familiar tune are harmonica, guitar, fiddle, steel, and piano. Harpsichord plays a little on the close which feels like an homage to the original tune. Lots of fills from the same instruments (except harpsichord). A Beatles classic with beautiful music played in country style. Mid-way up the energy chart. May need to adjust speed.

Heads Square Thru – Touch a Quarter – Scoot Back – Boy Run – Right & Left Thru – Dixie Style – Boy Trade – Boy Run – Half Sashay – Promenade

OUT OF WORK

Throw Back Tunes 124 by Ted Lizotte
Tempo: 124 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat with extra percussion. Leads are light so the caller will have to know the tune. Lots of strong fills. Great music from guitar, organ, saxophone and more horns. Lively music with two key changes for energy. An eighties pop song that is played in a country/jazz style. Ending fades out. Ted's vocal is outstanding.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Couples Circulate – Half Tag – Scoot Back Twice – Swing

HOEDOWNS

YA SAXY THING, ACME Recordings 164

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. A modern sounding hoedown with music from keyboard, organ, guitar and saxophone (of course). The tune of "You Sexy Thing" from the disco era is clearly played. The added guitar in the background gives a very percussive feel.

BROKEN ARROW, Arrowhead Recordings 907

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. A contemporary sounding hoedown with music from keyboard, piano, and harmonica. Music breaks to feature percussion. Good music with an unfamiliar tune played. Sounds like Arrowhead is using music from Circle Left Studios.

HOME SWEET HOEDOWN, Chic Recordings 4011

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

A different sound for Chic. Hoedown is chords played by guitar, banjo, mandolin, and harmonica. Lots of instruments in the background. Some stanzas have vocal "oohs" and "aahs" in the music. Musical drops add a nice feature.

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APACHE, Chic Recordings 4065

Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Shuffle

Drums leading into a good dance beat. The tune is the sixties song of the same name by the Shadows. Great guitar work out front and in the background. Great keyboard work too as the song builds. Good job Chic. May need to adjust speed.

STREAMING, ESP Records 469

Tempo: 122 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Modern sound with music from keyboard, piano, and guitar. This reviewer can't recognize the tune, but there is one clearly played. Lots of fill notes, sound effects, and musical drops. Good dance feel. Tracks included called patter.

TRAIN HOEDOWN, Fine Tune Records 208

Tempo: 130 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. A contemporary sounding hoedown made up of chords played by keyboard and guitar. A rhythmic piece of music that is easy to listen to. Lively feel. May need to adjust speed.

FILE GUMBO, Riverboat Records 1008

Tempo: 122 Rhythm: Boom-chuck

Good dance beat which gets reinforced by clapping in some places. Hoedowns is chords played by accordion, guitar, fiddle, and steel guitar. A lively Cajun feel to this hoedown. Good one from Riverboat. Tracks include called patter.

NITA HOEDOWN, Solid Gold Records 109

Tempo: 124 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Music has a modern feel played by keyboard and guitar. Lots of sound effects and musical drops. The tune "Bonita" (No Mercy) is played. A smooth feel to this hoedown.

FLAT TOP, Rawhide Music 1685

Tempo: 124 Rhythm: Boom-chuck

Good dance beat. Country feel with music from guitar, piano, and harmonica. The tune of "Flat Top Box" (Johnny Cash) is clearly played along with lots of fill notes. An exciting piece of music. From Hi Hat studio tapes and now available for 99¢

DoSaDo (dealer)	dosadomusic.com
Arrowhead Recordings	arrowheadrecording.com
Acme Recordings	acmerecordings.com
Blue Star Music	buddyweavermusic.com
Chic Recordings	chicrecordings.com
Chinook Records	callerdoug.com
Coyote Records	coyote-tnt.com
Crest Recordings	crestrecordings.com
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Rhythm Records	rhythmrecords.biz
Riverboat Records	riverboat.com
Royal Records	royal-records.com
SharpShooter Records	finetunegoldwingmusic.com
Sold Gold Records	solidgoldrecords.net
Sting Productions	stingproductions.co.uk
Throw Back Tunes	throwbacktunes.com