

THE VALUE OF SQUARE DANCING

The following was written in the mid-fifties by Ralph Maxhimer. A name not familiar to many in square dancing today, Ralph and his wife, Eve were considered pioneers in both square and round dancing. They were instrumental in the formation of the first square dancer association and the first caller organization in California. It has been remarked that Ralph Maxhimer was the most respected square dance caller of his time, not only by dancers but by fellow callers. His article appears in it's original form as a digital file on buddyweaver.com ("articles & links"); what follows is an abridged version.

I BELIEVE: That Square Dancing could become the Highest Common Denominator of American Recreation.

What this country needs is not a good 5¢ cigar but an awareness of the many, many values of Square Dancing. Even though hundreds of thousands are now dancing we still are not reaching the multitudes who are deprived of becoming happier people because of Square Dancing.

The above-mentioned values are multifold and will find expression in accord with the individual's needs. For the Meek, Square Dancing offers a pleasantly inconspicuous ingress to having fun while making those little old mistakes right along with the other fellow. For the Brazen, Square Dancing offers the opportunity for self-expression through cooperation and consideration of the other fellow. For just Ordinary Folks, Square Dancing establishes a social/relation vehicle which far surpasses any other co/recreational activity.

The term co/recreational is becoming increasingly important in today's trend toward the busy husband doing one thing, his wife doing another and his children still another. Far too few participant types of recreational activities are being offered and encouraged which attract the entire family and thereby give them this thing we call the Highest Common Denominator of social relations at the family level.

We emphasize participant because we the people of these United States need to participate more and more. With today's highly organized professional sports program we are fast becoming a Nation of sitters. Such a program allows a relatively few well paid professionals with about average skills to entertain thousand and thousand of us amateurs. Television, radio, the theater and other art forms also contribute to the this incentive to sit, sit, sit. A certain amount of this passive form of recreation is fine and dandy, in fact, in some instances even educational, but it can be over-done to the point of monopolizing all of your free time.

If it were made possible for recreational agencies at the city, county, state and federal levels to approximate the above-mentioned program these United States could enjoy the epitome of social relations through Square Dancing. A potential objective for our National Square Dance Convention Board Of Directors might be in such a direction. As they progress from area to area calling attention of the local agencies to the many fine virtues association with Square Dancing, as exemplified by its excellently disciplined participants, perhaps an opportunity will occur for them to incite the enactment of some measure of legislation which would assist in promoting such a program. The federal government exists because of the states. The state exists because of the counties,. The county exists because of the cities. The city exists because of the communities.

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There is where Square Dancing belongs – at the Community level. There, through Square Dancing, people living in the same block may become neighbors; people attending the same church may find yet another avenue of association; people having children in the same school are given the opportunity to extend intra-family relations; employers find an answer to employer/employee and employee/employee relations; service organizations recognize the opportunity to sponsor such worth-while community projects as Community Chest, March of Dimes, and many, many others. The potential betterment of a community through Square Dancing is unlimited. All it needs is the foresight and guidance of interested people like yourselves.

End -

There is lots to take away from this article. It has been shared in hopes that it will inspire individuals to become leaders that will grow square dancing. In my opinion, we need undertake the most difficult task of growing leaders. Folks with an eye toward the future of square dancing, not it's demise, but it's purposeful growth. Please send your comments 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.

Singing Calls

ONE OF THESE NIGHTS

Acme Recordings 163 by Scott Bennett

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Guitar introduction reminiscent of the original song. Great dance beat. The melody is easy to follow with clear leads played by saxophone, guitar, and organ. Lots of fill notes from the same instruments. An Eagles classic that is played in an exciting rock style. Tracks include music with and without melody/background vocals.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Sides Right & Left Thru - Square Thru – Do Sa Do – Eight Chain Four - Swing

LODI

Arrowhead Recordings 1137 by Jerry Story

Tempo: 124 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. The tune is out front with strong leads played by keyboard and piano. In the background is more keyboard, piano, and guitar. A Creedence Clearwater Revival classic that is played in a relaxing pop style. Tracks include music with and without melody played. Most dancers will have to walk the figure before being able to dance it.

Heads Promenade Three-Quarters – Sides Wheel Around – Veer Right – Bend the Line – Coordinate – Leads Reverse Wheel Around – Pass Thru – Chase Right – Boy Run once and a half – Swing

BLUE COLLAR MAN

Crest Recordings 166 by Scott Bennett

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Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. The leads and fills are lightly played against the chords. Music from guitar, organ, and saxophone. A rock feel to this Styx rock song. Lots of hot drum work. Tracks include music with and without melody/background vocal.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Right & Left Thru – Pass Thru – Trade By – Touch a Quarter – Scoot Back twice - Swing

SMILE

Chic Recordings 1064 by David Mee

Tempo: 124 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. A familiar tune that is easy to follow with clear leads played by guitar, electronic flute, and synth. Lots of pretty guitar work in the background. A classic sing along that is played in a relaxing country/pop style. Sing it soft and let the dancers be enchanted. Key change on close. Tracks include music with and without melody/harmony.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Right & Left Thru – Pass Thru – Trade By – Touch a Quarter – Scoot Back – Swing

SMILE

Chic Recordings 2064 by Shauna Kaaria

Tempo: 124 Rhythm: Shuffle

Musically very similar to Chic 1064 except in a key better suited for female voices. Tracks include music with and without lead/background vocals.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Right & Left Thru – Pass Thru – Trade By – Touch a Quarter – Scoot Back – Swing

IT TOOK A MAN LIKE THAT

ESP 747 by Bill Harrison

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Boom-chuck

Good dance beat. Clear leads played by mandolin, guitar, and harmonica make the tune easy to follow. Lots of fill notes from the same musicians. The song is bluegrass gospel and is played in country style. Middle of the energy chart.

Heads Square Thru – Do Sa Do – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Half Tag – Scoot Back – Boy Run – Slide Thru – Swing

I THINK I'M GONNA MAKE IT ALL THE WAY

ESP 1182 by Elmer Sheffield

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Boom-chuck

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Good dance beat. The melody is easy to find with clear leads from keyboard, guitar, and piano. The same instruments provide lots of fills. A Frank Sinatra sing along played in country style. Mid-way up the energy scale with a key change on the close for energy.

Heads Reverse Flutter – Promenade Halfway – Lead Right – Pass the Ocean – Fan the Top – Swing Thru – Turn Thru – Left Allemande – Promenade

SISTER GOLDENHAIR

Fine Tune Records 202 by Phil Farmer

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Guitar intro like the original song sets the mood for this release. Good dance beat. Strong leads played by keyboard instruments. Guitar work in the background along with more keyboard. A seventies classic (America) that most folks will sing. Middle of the energy chart. Tracks include music with and without melody/background vocals. Watch out, Slide Thru followed by Zoom is a reversal of flow.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Slide Thru – Zoom – Cntrs Pass Thru – Right & Left Thru – Swing Thru – Boy Trade – Turn Thru – Left Allemande - Promenade

LAST SONG

Gold Wing Records 174 by Brian Freed

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Leads are clearly played by keyboard instruments. Guitar work in the background. A seventies pop song that most folks will remember and sing along. An overall relaxed feel with lots of great guitar work. Tracks include music with and without melody.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Sides Right & Left Thru – Square Thru – Eight Chain Four – Swing

I GOT IT HONEST

Gold Wing Records 175 by Monte Guenzler

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Dance beat is good. Leads are clear for an easy to find melody. Lots of acoustic and electric guitar in the background throughout. A country song (Aaron Tippin) played in a pop/country style. Middle of the energy chart. Tracks include music with and without melody.

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

OLD DOGS, CHILDREN, WATERMELON WINE

Gold Wing Records 181 by Lorne Clayton

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Leads (keyboard) sit back in the chords so the caller will have to know the tune. Lots of guitar, piano, and harmonica work in the background for nice feel. A relaxing singing call

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with two key changes for energy. The tune is country (Tom T. Hall) with music played in a pop/country style. Tracks include music with and without melody. Figure provides an 8-beat Promenade home in 16-beats of music.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru - Right & Left Thru – Eight Chain Six – Swing

DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART

Gold Wing Records 182 by Ray & Eathel Rhea
Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Dance beat is good. The tune is easy to follow with leads clearly played by keyboard throughout. More keyboard work along with guitar in the background. A song made popular by Elton John and Kiki Dee. Music is played in pop style. Middle of the energy chart. Tracks include music with and without melody/background vocals.

Heads Square Thru - Right Hand Star – Heads Star Left – Swing Thru – Boy Trade – Swing

BALLAD OF GILLIGAN'S ISLE

Gold Wing Records 183 by Monte Guenzler
Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Boom-chuck

Good dance beat. A familiar tune clearly played by keyboard leads. Lots of guitar work in the background along with keyboard sound effects. The theme song from the sixties hit T.V. Show that is played in a pop style. Could be a rouser depending on the caller. Very cute and well done by the staff callers. Tracks include music with and without melody.

Heads Lead Right – Pass Thru – Trade By – Spin Chain and Exchange the Gears – Swing

WE BELIEVE IN HAPPY ENDINGS

Hi Hat Music 5359 by Jerry Junck
Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Boom-chuck

Welcome Jerry Junck as staff caller for Hi Hat Music. Dance beat is good. The tune is familiar and easy to follow with clear leads played by steel, piano, and fiddle. The same musicians play lots of fills. A seventies country song (Earl Thomas Conley with Emmylou Harris) that is played in an exciting country style. Key change on close adds more energy. Tracks include music with and without harmony.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Lead Right – Right & Left Thru – Veer Left – Couple Circulate – Bend the Line – Right & Left Thru – Touch a Quarter – Circulate – Boy Run – Swing

FIVE FOOT TWO

Rawhide Music 1239 by Darren Gallina
Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Boom-chuck

Good dance beat. A familiar tune clearly played by trumpet, banjo, clarinet, piano, and xylophone. In the background is banjo, guitar, rhythm sticks, and lots of snare drum work. The classic sing

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along is played in dixieland jazz style. Tracks include music with and without harmony. Originally done on Hi Hat.

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

GOODBYE MY LADY LOVE

Rawhide Music 1240 by Lanny Weakland
Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Boom-Chuck

Good dance beat. Two musical versions included, one with clear leads and another strong leads. Another familiar tune played by piano, guitar, and mandolin. The same instruments provide fills. Yes, another sing along played this time played in country style. From Rawhide studio tape.

Heads Square Thru – Do Sa Do – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Bend the Line – Right & Left Thru – Pass the Ocean – Boy Cross Fold – Swing

CALL MY NAME

Rhythm Records 363 by Wade Driver
Tempo: 120 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Leads are back in the chords so callers will have to know the tune. Lots of strong fills. Music from acoustic and electric guitars, organ, accordion. Exciting music on a pop tune (Cheryl). Middle of the energy scale.

Heads Pass the Ocean – Extend – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Bend the Line – Right & Left Thru – Flutterwheel – Square Thru Four – Trade By – Swing

NOTHING MORE

Rhythm Records 365 by Wade Driver
Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Clear leads play 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.

Heads Square Thru – Right Hand Star – Heads Star Left – Slide Thru – Square Thru Three – Swing

URGENT

SharpShooter 1051 by Leo Catt
Tempo: 124 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Strong leads push the tune up front. Music from electric guitar and keyboard. More guitar work in the background. A rock sound for this rock song (Foreigner). Could drive the energy at the dance depending on the caller. Tracks include music with and without melody.

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

FIRE DOWN BELOW

SharpShooter 1057 by John Sloper
Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. The melody is unmistakable with strong leads from keyboard throughout. Lots of music in the background from piano, organ, and electric guitar. Another rock piece (Bob Seger) that is played in an exciting pop style. Tracks include music with and without melody.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Pass the Ocean – Extend – Swing Thru – Girl Fold – Peel the Top – Right & Left Thru – Pass Thru – Chase Right – Swing

TRUE LOVE

Sting Productions 21715 by Maarten Weijers
Tempo: 127 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Clear leads played by harmonica, guitar, fiddle, steel, and piano. The tune is easy to follow. Lots of fills from the same instruments. A Don Williams country song played in country style. Laid-back and mellow.

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

PUPPET ON A STRING

Sting Productions 21711 by Mike Davey
Tempo: 127 Rhythm: Boom-chuck

Good dance beat. The melody is clearly played by guitar, piano, mandolin, and keyboard. The same instruments plus saxophone are playing lots of fill notes around the caller. A pop tune that is played in an exciting country/pop style. Key change at the end adds energy. A cute tune.

Heads Flutterwheel – Pass the Ocean – Extend – Girls Trade – Spin the Top – Boy Run – Bend the Line – Veer Left – Girls Circulate – Cast Off $\frac{3}{4}$ – Slide Thru – Swing

HOEDOWNS

DREAM CATCHER, Arrowhead Recordings 906

Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. A contemporary sounding hoedown with music from keyboard, piano, and guitar. The tune "Tell Me Lies" (Blondie) is lightly played. Smooth with musical drops for percussive effect. A new musical sound for Arrowhead.

TECHNICOLOR HOEDOWN, Blue Star Music 590

Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Shuffle

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The signature Blue Star strong dance beat. A modern sound with music from keyboard instruments, guitar, piano, and electronic flute. Hoedown is chords with lots of fills. Smooth and lively. Adjust speed.

LADY MARMALADE, Blue Star Music 589

Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Shuffle

Great dance beat. A contemporary sound with music from keyboard, electronic horns, guitar, and lots of effects. The familiar "Lady Marmalade" tune is clearly played. Exciting music with musical drops for a great effect.

REBOUND, ESP 467

Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Modern sound with music from keyboard, piano, and guitar. The tune clearly played is "Second Time Around", a disco-era hit (Shalamar). Smooth music.

MARGE, ESP 468

Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Exciting, contemporary music. Chords are played by keyboard and piano with lots more piano work in the background. Sound effects and musical drops make a great sound.

JAMAICA HOEDOWN, Rawhide Music 1684

Tempo: 127 Rhythm: Shuffle

Danceable beat. Contemporary sound with chords played by keyboard. Lots of percussion added along with musical drops. Hoedown pays homage to the Caribbean. From Rawhide CD 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
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