

WHAT IS SSD

The COVID-19 shutdown of square dancing is dragging on; five months as of this writing. While we don't know how long we will continue to be shutdown, we do know there is a need to plan for when we can resume. A reasonable assumption is then we can resume dancing, clubs will be smaller mostly from dancers not returning. Some clubs that were barely hanging on pre-pandemic may not survive.

Maybe this will not be the case. Perhaps everyone will return, halls will be the same price, and every caller/teacher will come back, in which case, we can expect the status quo. However, if the expected loss of dancers becomes reality then we must be prepared to rebuild our dance activity. The topic of rebuilding is much debated today and at the forefront of most every discussion is SSD – Social Square Dancing.

Not a new idea. SSD is built on the fundamental that a non-dancer would be a dancing at club level in a matter of weeks. For example, a beginner class could start in January and have new club members by April. To help you understand what SSD is (and isn't), the following editorial is offered.

1. SSD is a club level. Club level is the defacto destination of every class. So an SSD class is the product of an SSD club.
2. SSD is not a stepping stone into a Mainstream or Plus club. A Plus club that plans to use SSD to get folks in but continue to run the students in classes until they reach Plus is morally suspect. It will be folly.
3. History shows us that when a student can become a full club dancer in weeks, there has been significant growth of the activity. When the destination level was similar to SSD, there was a constant influx of new dancers, new callers, and new clubs.
4. An SSD club does not have to give up Plus or Mainstream. In fact, many clubs already offer special tips through the night for those who want to dance the “higher” level so it would be easy to offer SSD for ninety-minutes followed by thirty-minutes of Plus. That would keep everyone happy.
5. SSD will require callers to step up their game. A caller who currently relies on a large vocabulary of calls to create a dance would have to graduate into a journeyman capable of entertaining with fewer calls.
6. SSD is not a step down or boring. In the hands of a master caller, SSD is energetic, mentally stimulating, and hugely entertaining. Avoiding gimmicks or “gottchas”, there is enough meat in SSD to build great dances.
7. SSD could be a financial rescue for existing clubs. Clubs that have lost dancers when the shutdown ends, have lost revenue. A Plus club that restarts with 60% attendance will have to stay afloat for one year waiting for the next group of paying customers (aka new club members) to enter the revenue stream. An SSD club will have new, paying members in weeks with the potential of having two classes per year, potentially doubling new revenue.
8. SSD is not a stepping stone into a Mainstream or Plus club. Worth repeating.
9. There are parts of the United States that have already created SSD clubs – successfully. For example, in the Chicago area, SSD as a destination enjoys many dancers of many

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ages. This is no accident; it has been carefully planned, executed, and protected by some very dedicated dance leaders and callers.

SSD is endorsed by the CALLERLAB Board of Governors as a viable way to keep square dancing alive in your area. It has a proven track record and a fan-base among today's top caller/leaders. If you haven't carefully looked at SSD, then send me an email at buddy@buddyweaver.com

Please visit buddyweaver.com and click on the "articles" link for reviews from January 2019 to present. 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

FOOL IF YOU THINK IT'S OVER

Arrowhead Recordings 1145 by Joe Saltel

Tempo: 124 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Easy to follow tune with leads clearly played by keyboard, guitar, and piano. The same instruments play lots of fill notes. A late seventies pop song that is also known as "Fool (If You Think It's Over)". Music is done in a pop style. Could be a crooner. Tracks include music with and without harmony.

Heads Promenade Halfway - Square Thru Two – Touch a Quarter – Scoot Back – Hinge – Girls Trade - Swing Thru – Boy Cross Run – Chain Down the Line – Promenade

I'D REALLY LOVE TO SEE YOU TONIGHT

Chic Recordings 1068 by David Mee

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Leads played by keyboard, piano, and guitar are soft so it would help if the caller knew the tune. Quite a different take on the England Dan and John Ford Coley classic using a beautiful Spanish guitar along with a modern dance orchestration. A great new sound for Chic. Could really be a crowd pleaser. Tracks include music with and without background vocals/lead.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Ferris Wheel – Square Thru Three – Swing

I'D REALLY LOVE TO SEE YOU TONIGHT

Chic Recordings 2068 by Patty Greene

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Musically similar to Chic 1068 except in a higher key. While similar, you'll find the leads are clearer making the tune easy to follow. Tracks include music with and without background vocals/lead.

Four Ladies Chain – Heads Promenade Halfway – Lead Right – Circle to a Line – Pass the Ocean – All Circulate Once and a Half – Swing

NO MATTER WHAT

Gold Wing Records 189 by Ray Rhea
Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. The melody is easy to follow with clear leads played by keyboard instruments. Lots of acoustic guitar around the keyboards. A nineties pop song that is played in a laid-back pop style. Key change from middle break to third figure. Callers may croon this. Tracks include music with and without lead.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Swing Thru Twice – Circulate – Swing

LOVES ME LIKE A ROCK

Gold Wing Records 190 by Darin Keith
Tempo: 130 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat reinforced with hand-clapping throughout. Clear leads played by keyboard instruments make the tune easy to find. Lots of guitar and keyboard work in the background. The Paul Simon classic is played in pop style. Could be a rocker, depending on the caller. Tracks include music with and without background vocals/lead. May need to adjust speed.

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

FLYING ON MY OWN

Rhythm International 945 by Jake Shimada
Tempo: 124 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Clear leads make the tune easy to follow. Lots of fill notes around the caller. Music from guitar, keyboard, and piano. A recent song from Celine Dion played in pop style. Could be a crooner for singing callers. Middle break offers an instrumental drop for percussive effect (added kettle drum). Jake does a great job on the vocal.

Heads Square Thru – Right & Left Thru – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Bend the Line – Reverse Flutter – Square Thru Three – Swing

BUTTERFLY

Riverboat Records 976 by Mitchell Osawa/ Noriko Shinogaya
Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Tune is easy to follow with clear leads played by guitar, piano, and flute. The same instruments play lots of fills. An Andy Williams song that is played in country style. Should be a crowd pleaser.

Two figures

STREET FAIR

Riverboat Records 978 by Nelda Eaton/Ted Kennedy

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Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Boom-Chuck

Good dance beat that has been added by the producer. Taken from Jay Bar K Records, with the melody clearly played by piano, clarinet, guitar, harpsichord, and xylophone. A lively piece of music to the Lawrence Welk classic.

Two figures

I WASHED MY FACE IN THE MORNING DEW

Riverboat Records 982 by Kaneko Jr

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Boom-Chuck

Good dance beat. Tune is easy to follow with clear leads played by guitar, piano, and harmonica. Lots of fill notes from the same musicians. A country classic (Tom T. Hall) played in a lively country style. Good music.

Two figures

STEP BY STEP

Riverboat Records 983 by Kumi Takahashi

Tempo: 122 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Tune upfront with clear leads played by guitar, harmonica, and piano. The same play lots of fill notes. A Whitney Houston song that is played in country style. Middle of the energy chart with two key changes for lift. Tracks include music with and without harmony.

Heads Lead Right – Circle to a Line – Pass Thru – Wheel & Deal – Double Pass Thru – First Couple Go Left; Second Go Right – Pass the Ocean – Girl Trade – Recycle – Pass Thru – Swing

I NEED TO BE IN LOVE

Riverboat Records 984 by Max Ringe

Tempo: 124 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Clear leads played by piano, guitar, and flute make the tune easy to follow. Strong leads for the same instruments. A Carpenter's song that is played in a laid-back country style. Callers may croon.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Pass the Ocean – Extend – Swing Thru – Spin the Top – Right & Left Thru – Square Thru Three – Swing

RING OF FIRE

Riverboat Records 985 by Steve Edlund/Nelda Eaton

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Boom-Chuck

Good dance beat, again added by the producer to music taken from Jay Bar K vinyl. Strong leads make a familiar tune unmistakable. Music from trumpet, accordion, piano, acoustic and electric

guitar. A classic square dance sound with great new percussion. Very lively. Tracks include music with and without background vocals.

Two figures

A WHOLE NEW WORLD

Riverboat Records 986 by Gaku Nakagawa & Kumi Takahashi

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. The familiar tune is clearly played by flute, guitar, and piano. Lots of fills from the same instruments. Kettle drum rushes add a nice touch. The tune is from Disney's Aladdin and is played in country style. Mid-way up the energy chart.

Two figures

TRIP AROUND THE SUN

Solid Gold Music 715 by Doug and Don Sprotsy

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Tune is clearly played by piano, steel, and piano. Fills from the same instruments plus acoustic guitar. A Jimmy Buffet song that is played in a laid-back country style. May need to adjust the figure to avoid over-flow.

Head Square Thru – Touch a Quarter – Scoot Back – Boy Run – Reverse Flutter – Sweep a Quarter – Veer Right – Boy Trade – Couples Circulate – Promenade

AIN'T NOTHING A BEER CAN'T FIX

Solid Gold Music 1032 by Gary Smith

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Strong leads make the tune unmistakable. Lots of fill notes. Music from piano, steel and acoustic guitars. A recent country hit (Rhett Thomas) that is played in country style. May be somewhat of a sing-along.

Heads Lead Right – Pass Thru – Trade By – Right & Left Thru – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Tag the Line – Girl Go Left; Boy Go Right - Swing

(I JUST) DIED IN YOUR ARMS TONIGHT

SharpShooter 1061 by Christian Sorge

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Clear leads played by keyboard throughout. Lots of electric guitar work in the background. An eighties pop song (Cutting Crew) that is done in a laid-back pop style. Tracks include music with and without background vocals/leads.

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

I CAN LOVE YOU LIKE THAT

Sting Productions 21704 by Thorsten Hubmann

Tempo: 130 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. The melody is easy to follow with strong leads played by guitar, piano, fiddle, and steel. The same musicians play lots of fills. A country song (John Michael Montgomery) that is played in country style. Could be a crooner for the caller with dancers singing along. Good music. May need to adjust speed.

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

Rawhide Music has re-released the following titles. With the recent discovery of a second set of studio tapes, the producer has remixed the music, in many cases adding another track with strong melody playing.

HOOKED ON A FEELING – RWH 1023

SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME – RWH 1146

THE BIG ONE – RWH 1124

THEN HE KISSED ME (THEN I KISSED HER) – RWH 1103

TROUBLE – RWH 1186

HOEDOWNS

LOVE TRAIN, Arrowhead Recordings 914

Tempo: 124 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. A contemporary sounding hoedown with music/fills/sound effects from keyboard instruments, piano, and bass. The O'Jay's "Love Train" is clearly played. A lively hoedown with musical drops for percussive effect.

NIGHT IN THE CITY, Riverboat Records 979

Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Boom-Chuck

Good dance beat. A country music feel with chords/fills played by guitar, piano, and flute.

DANCING AT THE PROM, Riverboat Records 980

Tempo: 122 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Country music sound with music from guitar, piano, and steel guitar. Chords and fills – no melody. Music has a samba feel.

NEIGHBORS, Riverboat Records 981

Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Boom-Chuck

Very good dance beat. Country sound with music from banjo, harmonica, piano, guitar, and mandolin. Chords played is a lively piece of music – good stuff from Riverboat.

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EXCALIBUR, Sting Productions 21753

Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Shuffle

GUINEVERE, Sting Productions 21753

Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Shuffle

Two hoedowns for the price of one. Both are contemporary pop music and have a good dance beat. Music for both is from keyboard instruments playing chords. "Excalibur" is a lively feel while "Guinevere" offers a smooth feel that builds. Good music from Sting. May need to adjust speed.

AS Records (dealer)	asrecordshop.com
DoSaDo Music(dealer)	dosadomusic.com
Arrowhead Recordings	arrowheadrecording.com
Blue Star Music	buddyweavermusic.com
Chic Recordings	chicrecordings.com
Gold Wing Records	finetunegoldwingmusic.com
Rawhide Music	buddyweavermusic.com
Rhythm Records	rhythmrecords.biz
Riverboat Records	riverboat.com
SharpShooter	finetunegoldwingmusic.com
Solid Gold Music	solidgoldrecords.net
Sting Productions	stingproductions.co.uk