

THE LARGEST SQUARE DANCE EVER

On July 13, 1950, Santa Monica, California was host to the largest square dance ever. This dance was part of the city's Diamond Jubilee, which featured many events over multiple weekends. On this day, six city blocks, roughly the length of eight football fields, was closed off to traffic so that fifteen-thousand square dancers could dance in front of thirty-thousand spectators. To accommodate the dancers, theatre speakers were attached to city street posts to broadcast the sound everywhere. Lighting was brought in from Hollywood to illuminate the area for dancers, spectators, and the press. The event was covered in newspapers, magazines, and newsreel. It was a big deal but was it the largest square dance ever?

The argument can be made that there have been much larger numbers of dancers at National Conventions over the years but every convention divides the dancers into various halls; no one hall has all of the dancers at any time. By contrast the Santa Monica Diamond Jubilee dance had all of the dancers on one floor all dancing to the same caller and band. The dance itself was three and a half hours long, much greater than some events that were staged for a world record. This would make the Santa Monica Diamond Jubilee, the largest square dance ever, even to this day.

The dance was recorded on reel-to-reel tapes. These tapes have some issues, in addition to not being properly stored for seventy-years, there are parts where the recording starts in the middle of a tip or cuts off in the middle of a tip. There are some instances where the sound input was too loud causing the recording to distort (clip). In spite of these problems, the recording is a fantastic snapshot of a once-in-a-lifetime event.

As part of on-going efforts to preserve square dance history, these tapes have been digitally remastered. Narration has been added to give background information on the event and participants. The Santa Monica Diamond Jubilee is presented as a series of podcasts; each week is a new episode. Available free of charge to everyone for listening (streaming) or downloading. Go to: buddyweavermusic.podbean.com

Write to me at buddy@buddyweaver.com and 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

WOULDN'T IT BE NICE

Rhythm Records 369 by Mike Seastrom
Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Beautiful introduction reminiscent of the original song. Great, strong dance beat. Clear leads played by guitar, mandolin, and keyboard make the familiar tune, easy to follow. Lots of fills from keyboard create a nice sound. A Beach Boys classic that will have the dancers join in the sing along. A winner from Rhythm. Tracks include music with and without harmony.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Square Thru Three – Trade By – Touch a Quarter – Scoot Back – Swing

MONEY

Rhythm Records 372 by Wade Driver

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Leads are clearly played by piano, harmonica, and guitar. Lots of strong fills from the same instruments. The first half of every stanza drops the instrumental for a more percussive feel. A rockin' song and piece of music played in country style.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Touch a Quarter – Walk & Dodge – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Bend the Line – Right & Left Thru – Slide Thru – Square Thru Three – Swing

WOMAN AMEN

Rhythm Records 373 by Adam Christman

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Tune is easy to follow with clear leads played by fiddle, steel and acoustic guitar. Lots of strong fills from the same musicians. A recent country hit (Dierks Bentley) played in country style. Middle of the energy scale. Tracks include music with and without harmony.

Heads Square Thru – Right Hand Star – Heads Star Left – Right & Left Thru – Swing Thru Twice – Swing

DON'T LET THE SUN GO DOWN ON ME

Rhythm International 950 by Jake Shimada

Tempo: 122 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Clear leads make the tune easy to follow with lots of fill notes around the caller. Music from piano, guitar, and harmonica. An Elton John classic that is played in country style. A singing caller could send this song into orbit. Listen to Jake for a great example. Tracks include music with and without harmony.

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

CARRY ON MY WAYWARD SON

Royal Records 288 by Tony Oxendine

Tempo: 127 Rhythm: Boom-Chuck

Good dance beat. Clear leads played by dobro, harmonica, and fiddle make the tune easy to follow. Lots of fill notes from the same instruments plus banjo in the background throughout. Callers will have to know the tune to put this singing call over well. A seventies pop song (Kansas) that is played in country style. Mid way up the energy chart.

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

DANCING IN THE MOONLIGHT

Royal Records 289 by Tony Oxendine

Tempo: 129 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. A familiar tune that is easy to follow with clear leads played by keyboard, guitar, and saxophone. The same instruments provide lots of fills. Another seventies pop song (King Harvest) done in a relaxing pop style. Adjust speed.

Heads Square Thru – Right Hand Star – Heads Star Left – Right & Left Thru – Rollaway - Swing

HAPPY DOES

Solid Gold Music 233 by Tom Manning

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Strong leads played by mandolin, piano, and guitar bring the tune out front. Lots of fill notes from the same instruments. A recent country hit (Kenny Chesney) that is played in a relaxing country style.

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

IF WE EVER MEET AGAIN

Sting Productions 21809 by Thorsten Hubmann

Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Strong leads played by guitar, organ, and synth. The same instruments plus piano provide lots of fills. A recent pop hit (Timbaland with Katy Perry) that is played in an exciting pop style. Music comes in two keys. Adjust speed.

Heads Square Thru – Do Sa Do – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Couple Circulate – Chain Down the Line – Pass the Ocean – Circulate – Swing

CIRCLE DRIVEWAY

Sting Productions 21803 by Stefan Sidholm

Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good beat. The melody is easy to follow with clear leads played by piano, fiddle, steel and acoustic guitar. The same instruments provide lots of fills. A lesser known Don Williams song that is played in a relaxing country style. Adjust speed.

Heads Square Thru – Touch a Quarter – Follow Your Neighbor and Spread – Fan the Top – Right & Left Thru – Dixie Style – Trade the Wave – Swing

DANCING

Snow 21801 by Juli Burr

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Music Review February 2021 by Buddy Weaver

Good dance beat. The melody is easy to follow with clear leads played by mandolin, keyboard, and guitar. The same instruments plus piano provide lots of fills. Every stanza has parts where the percussive feel is enhanced. A pretty 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

I'M STILL STANDING

Snow 21803 by Mathew Mills

Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good beat. Strong leads bring the tune out front. Lots of fill notes. Music from keyboard, piano, and guitar. An Elton John song that is played in country style. Could be a rocker depending on the caller. Adjust speed.

Heads Square Thru – Do Sa Do – Girls Trade – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Bend the Line – Slide Thru – Pass Thru – Left Allemande

NO HOEDOWNS THIS REVIEW

AS Records (dealer)	asrecordshop.com
DoSaDo Music(dealer)	dosadomusic.com
Blue Star Music	buddyweavermusic.com
Rhythm Records	rhythmrecords.biz
Royal Records	royal-records.com
Solid Gold Records	solidgoldrecords.net
Sting Productions	stingproductions.co.uk