

Leading Dance at an Event

- Space Needs – similar to space for a practice, but allow for more people
- Equipment – same as for practice, but make sure the audio can be heard in a larger area and over conversations at the other end of the room
- Scheduling
 - Try not to schedule classes at the same time as other topics dancers would like
 - For a “ball” or open dancing session, consider your timing options
 - Before a feast could make some non-dancers impatient, but may give them some down time to relax and converse
 - After a feast, people are full and many are cleaning up, but non-dancers can leave if that’s the last scheduled activity
- Organizing
 - Themes
 - Consider choosing your dances based on a theme
 - Nationality, formality, numbers of dancers, complexity
 - If you will be teaching new dancers, try building on each previous dance, introducing one new step or figure in each dance
 - Variety
 - Alternate the types or speeds of dances to keep people interested. Even if they sit out a dance they can stay engaged and jump back in for the next one
 - Maybe try having each set be a different type of dance (Italian, two-couple, bransles, etc.)
 - Sets
 - Most small to medium events can support 2-3 sets of 4-5 dances each
 - Allow water breaks after every few dances
 - Alternatively, keep the dancing going and allow dancers to come and go as they like
 - Open a set with a familiar dance to get people started
 - Save the more tiring dances for the end
 - Refreshments – can help attract dancers and keep them going longer



Handouts and more at
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Teaching / Leading Dance

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Getting Started Teaching

- Space Needs
 - Depends on the number of people
 - In general, 20'x30' is decent, but more is better. Narrower can work, depending on the dances.
 - Try to avoid carpeting. Concrete can work, but it’s hard on the body.
 - Extra space for non-dancers to socialize or for dancers to rest.
- Equipment
 - Music (obviously)
 - Any options that allow you to play music and have the tunes easily accessible
 - Phone/iPod and Bluetooth Speaker
 - CDs and Boombox (burn CDs to organize your tunes)
 - Live musicians (even one recorder player can be enough)
 - Dance instructions
 - You can use these to teach from
 - Or use as a backup just in case you forget something
 - Extra copies can be given to dancers
 - Seating
 - For dancers when resting
 - For non-dancers who want to socialize and watch
 - Water
 - Make sure water is available nearby.
 - Restrooms are also helpful.
- Recordings
 - Play them ahead of time to make sure the tempo is good and the number of repeats is right
 - Collect all the best recordings you can find in one place, so you can find them easily later
 - Use Audacity (free software) to slow down recordings, add introductions, etc.
 - Musica Subterranea: SCA Dance Music by SCA Dancers - <http://www.musicasub.org/>

- Online Resources

- SCA Dance Database Search Engine - <http://ieee.uwaterloo.ca/sca/Music/index.cgi?>
- Dance Videos uploaded by Darius the Dancer - <https://www.youtube.com/user/LordDariustheDancer/videos>
- Gregory Blount's SCA Dance Cheat Sheets - <http://www.pbm.com/~lindah/dance/Top.html>
- Terpsichore at the Tower Dance Booklets - <https://www.cynnabar.org/eurodance>
- Dafydd's Collection of Playford's English Country Dances - <http://www.pages.drexel.edu/~white/dplayford.html>
- Del's Dance Book - <http://www.pbm.com/~lindah/del/>
- Playford Dance Videos - <http://dancevideos.childgrove.org/ecd/playford>
- Palmer's Pocket Playford - <https://round.soc.srcf.net/dances/p-index>
- Library of Congress Dance Instruction Manuals 1490-1920 - <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/dihtml/dihome.html>
- Vintage Dance Manuals - <http://www.libraryofdance.org/manuals/>
- Hakon's Dance Collection - <http://hakon.pfitzinger.net/dance/>
- Medieval Dance for Village Idiots - <http://middlegate.atlantia.sca.org/Library/MedievalDanceforVillageIdiots.pdf>

- Dance Practices

- Talk it up at local meetings before each practice
- Plan dances around the interests and skill levels of your dancers
- Start with what you know and are comfortable with, even if it's only a couple dances
- You can add one dance each time to slowly build your group's repertoire
- Introduce new concepts – teach a certain dance figure with several dances that use it
- Try scheduling dance practices when people are already gathered, like after a business meeting
- Provide snacks and drinks for increased attendance
- Start by walking through the dance steps, reviewing as needed, before adding the music
- It doesn't matter if people mess up, as long as they're having fun and learning.

- Preparation

- Get familiar with the dances you plan on teaching
- Learn the terminology for the dances so you can tell people what to do
- Practice by playing the recordings and saying all the instructions
- Be prepared to talk loudly
- You don't have to be perfect, just willing to learn and have fun



Dancing at a Demo

- Space Needs

- Often dictated by availability
- Plan room for the audience

- Equipment – same as for a practice, but volume may be more important

- Organizing

- Choose dances that are visually appealing
- Begin with a slower processional-type dance that you can enter with
- Introduce the dances with short descriptions in plain language
- Be aware of the audience's attention span
- End with a simple fun dance that you can invite the audience to join in on

- Information

- Have tri-folds or business cards to give out to interested audience members
- This can be a good way to attract new members to your local group