



# American Caller's Association

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JAN FEB MAR -- 2022 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to 2022 the new start of Square Dancing we hope, if Covid-19 does not do something to mess it up again. I know how much everyone has tried to do everything they could to get Square Dancing going again and this may be the last shot we have at doing that. Some people think it will be easy to do. I wish I could share their believe, but we have had so many things that have changed in the Square Dance activity over the past several years. One of the worst things was that we got so smart everyone started to change everything about Square Dancing and having all the levels, mixed then the next big thing they turned it over to the callers or the callers took it away from the dancers and started telling them what they could and could not do. The thing that caused Square Dancing to have the attraction it once had was the way the dancers dress and look like Square Dancers and the callers and round dance people worked together to help the dance activity.

Back when the dancers **were in charge of the activity then as the callers took it over**. What had attracted so many people to the activity started to be more and more NOT a part of the activity.

When the Nationals was in Anaheim CA there was Over 44,000 dancers there for the Nationals. When the Nationals was in Jackson MS in 2021. The number was around 1,500 what does that tell us. To me it tells that we have gotten away from what made the Activity Great and cause everyone to want to be a part of Square Dancing. Many things can be blamed as the cause for this happen one of the worst things was when we started all the levels and we started pushing everyone to move up the level ladder and chunked the enjoyment level out the window. Another thing was when we started allowing people to come to a square dance looking like street bums how would anyone know that they were Square Dancers. One other thing was when callers took the Square Dance activity away from the dancer and started telling them what they could and could not do and added so many calls to the levels that people had to stay in a class for one Year. And then be rushed into a plus class and then to an advance class and by the time there was only a few of them left people that started with the class.

I know some of you have forgotten that when we stop putting that year that they were required to stay in the mainstream level before they could go to a plus class was so they could pay back to the club members for the time they spent to help them learn to square dance and they should do the same for the next class before going to Plus. Now if you have enough new people to start a class as soon as they find out what they have to go through to become a square dancer, there are gone.

## ABOUT THE FEDERAL COPY RIGHT LAW THAT COVERS DANCE MUSIC

This law can be found by searching Copyright Law for Public Performance of Copyright Music. You can read what you are allowed to do in the public performance of copyrighted music. A public performance of copyrighted music is any performance other than for your personal enjoyment and use.

Every dance activity that uses copyrighted music by federal LAW must have a public performance License that States clearly their use and limits of copyrighted music in a public setting and the license will state what kind of dance the license will cover and allow. Now, when the callers except the responsibility for the license, that lets dance clubs off the hook for any infractions made. The caller is the one that would be charged for any infractions because they have excepted the responsibility for the club by taking on the responsibility for the license. I don't know if they could go back and include the club in this but most likely they could not. By Federal Law it reads: The sponsor of the event or the sponsoring organization is responsible for the music performance license.

BMI & ASCAP both agreed that if the caller is licensed, then the dance is covered. This would also cover the club so that they would not have to purchase a license.

**Let us look at what that means to the Caller or dance instructor.** When we take on the buying of the music license we take on the Responsibility as the sponsor of the dance. Callers are only doing this to keep the dance club from having to pay a much higher fee for license everytime they open their doors for a dance. I think the dancers should know just how much the Callers are helping them out and should have a bake sell or something to pay for the callers' License Fee. If they're not all ready do that.

There is such a large amount of misinformation about licensing and what it will cover, people don't know who to believe. If I could make a suggestion, call BMI and or ASCAP (both in Nashville) and speak to someone that can give all the correct information. They will ask what kind of dance, the number of dances, and the average number of dancers. Then they will be able to tell you the number of dances per year allowed with the agreement with ACA or whoever you have licensing with BMI & ASCAP. I do hope this will help anyone that is concerned.

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Regardless of how long we teach new dancers, we need to go back to being **Square Dancers**. **Getting** back to dress and look like Square Dancers. We all need the new dancers to stay in mainstream after they have completed Mainstream. Giving them time enjoy what they have learned and to let them know that since you were there to help them learn to dance they will need to be there for the next Class of new square dancers. In my opinion, we need to spread the word about the fun we have as **Square Dancers**. This will make people want to join our activity. We need to put back the rule that you **MUST STAY IN MAINSTREAM** for one year **OR** until **YOU** help with the next class **Before** going to the next level.

**COMMENTARY - MAC LETSON - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AMERICAN CALLERS ASSOCIATION**

**CHANGES THAT HAVE TO BE MADE TO REGROW THIS ACTIVITY.**

In order to get this activity going again, we have to **START** at the first level and grow from that. If we do not start at the **BASIC** level and allow the new people to dance and enjoy it, we will lose them.

The level set up: **DO NOT MIX PLUS AND OTHER LEVELS**; we need to give the new dancer the **TIME** to learn all they need to know and be able to survive. If not, **WE** will have killed ourselves again and we will not survive with a dance activity to rebuild. It's all up to us, the callers.

Do not let anyone **PUSH YOU** into turning out dancers before they know enough to survive on a **BASIC** dance floor. You are in charge of this part of the teaching new people to dance.

The same should be for **MAINSTREAM** and let the club members know that up front before you start the class. **DO NOT MIX THE LEVELS** unless you want to see the same thing happen again and again and again with the class members leaving square dancing never to return.

We have the chance to bring this activity back stronger and better than ever if we do it right.

We know by now that we cannot have this activity survive if we try to mix dance levels.

I have been a part of the square dance activity and calling for over 60 years. I've watched the activity go from greatness to a smaller and smaller activity to the point that you could not get people to even talk to you about joining a dance class, and if they did, you could not get dancers to help with the class. In order for this activity to survive, we have to get back to **NOT** asking dancers to move to the next level before they are ready to go and I know that you will have people, in your club, that will try to push new dancers to the next level before they are ready to go, but **WE ARE** the ones that make the call since we are the teachers.

If you teach the new dancer more than one way to do the call, they will have a better chance to survive. This is why I believe that as the caller-teacher you should have the new dancer walk through the call starting with the **Basic**, all the way through at least 4 times.

I think it will take us at least 3 to 4 years to get this activity going again. But the only way we can do this is to allow the dancer the time to enjoy what they have learned. This is your class and they go out as a statement of your ability as a caller-teacher.

Mac Letson

# BASIC MATERIAL

## FEATURING - COUPLES PROMENADE 3/4

*Heads or Sides*  
 COUPLES PROMENADE 3/4  
*Centers* LEFT SQUARE THRU 3  
 SWING THRU  
 RIGHT & LEFT GRAND  
 PROMENADE *home.*

*Heads or Sides*  
 COUPLES PROMENADE 3/4  
*Centers* 1/2 SASHAY  
     *And* VEER TO THE LEFT  
*Centers* 1/2 TAG THE LINE  
 BOX CIRCULATE 3 TIMES  
 ALLEMANDE LEFT  
 WEAVE THE RING  
 PROMENADE *home.*

*Heads or Sides*  
 COUPLES PROMENADE 3/4  
*Centers* STAR THRU  
     *And* PASS THE OCEAN  
*Centers* SWING THRU  
     *And* TURN THRU  
 ALLEMANDE LEFT  
 RIGHT & LEFT GRAND  
 PROMENADE *home.*

*Heads or Sides*  
 COUPLES PROMENADE 3/4  
*Centers* FLUTTER WHEEL  
*Centers* SWING THRU  
     SWING THRU *again*  
 PASS THRU  
 ALLEMANDE LEFT  
 PROMENADE *home.*

*Heads or Sides*  
 COUPLES PROMENADE 3/4  
*Centers* PASS THE OCEAN  
     *And* PASS THRU *and face in*  
*Centers* PASS THRU  
 SWING THRU  
 RIGHT & LEFT GRAND  
 PROMENADE *home.*

*Heads or Sides*  
 COUPLES PROMENADE 3/4  
*Centers* 1/2 SASHAY  
     *And* VEER TO THE LEFT  
*Centers* 1/2 TAG THE LINE  
     *And* RIGHT STAR 3/4  
 ALLEMANDE LEFT  
 PROMENADE *home.*

*Heads or Sides*  
 COUPLES PROMENADE 3/4  
*Centers* VEER TO THE LEFT  
     *And* WHEEL & DEAL  
*Centers* SWING THRU  
     *And* TURN THRU  
 ALLEMANDE LEFT  
 WEAVE THE RING  
 PROMENADE *home.*

*Heads or Sides*  
 PASS THRU *And*  
     COUPLES PROMENADE 3/4  
*Centers* FLUTTER WHEEL  
     *And* PASS THRU  
 ALLEMANDE LEFT  
 PROMENADE *home.*

A Call From The Past - Revived  
**GRAND SASHAY** - Author Unknown

**Starting formation:** Facing Partner.  
**STYLING:** Use Dosado and Pull by styling.  
**TIMING:** 32 steps.

**ALLEMANDE LEFT**  
*Facing Partner*  
**GRAND SASHAY**  
**DOSADO**  
**RIGHT PULL BY**  
**LEFT DOSADO (SEESAW)**  
**LEFT PULL BY**  
**DOSADO**  
**RIGHT PULL BY**  
**LEFT DOSADO (SEESAW)**  
**LEFT PULL BY**  
**PROMENADE *home***

**-CTP-NOTES-**  
**-CALLER TEACHING PROGRAM-**  
**-QUARTERLY-**  
**-NOTE SERVICE-**

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OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER  
2021

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