

Dance Database – something for everyone!

my.strathspey.org/dd

The Scottish Country Dance Database contains a wealth of inter-related information in a format that's easy to use. It holds information on Dances, Formations, Devisors, Musicians, Bands, Publications, Recordings and Tunes. You can easily flow from one element to a related one. There's something for everyone in here!

Looking for information on a dance? Enter a dance name (or part of it) in the "Quick Search" bar. You'll get a list of all the dances with that phrase in their title (but be careful to get any punctuation correct!) Click on the name, and you'll be able to check out and download the instructions (written and diagrams), find out about any recordings, maybe view a video, find publication details and see who has included it in their Programmes.

Formations – what dances use a particular formation? Very handy for finding that dance to teach one of the more unusual formations!

Recordings – who has recorded a dance, on what album, track duration, pace of the dance; often you can listen to a 15-second clip from the start of a track, which is great for auditioning a recording before you buy it.

Interested in a Band? Click on its name and you'll be able to see what albums they have recorded, what dances are on them, and what tunes they've used.

Tunes – this is a great tool for musicians! Who has recorded a particular tune, and what other tunes did they put with it? Or, what other tunes has this composer written? And where are they published? There's also a link to a search engine for tunes in ABC format.

Devisors – what dances has this person devised, and where are they published?

And for those who like a game, there's an activity which provides practice in distinguishing between a jig and a reel ☺ .

I've really only scratched the surface. I encourage you all to look up this resource, it really is comprehensive, well organised and extremely useful. A word of warning, though: you can spend hours diving deeper and deeper into its depths. Any questions? feel free to contact me on music@dancescottish.org.nz

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