

What to do with your ears while your feet are busy – or not!

Lead tunes

Each SCD has its own lead tune.

See how many lead tunes on a programme identify the dance to you

Some Tune Styles

- Strathspeys – Trad, Modern, Air/Song
- Jigs – Pipe tune, Two-step, Irish, Trad Scottish
- Reels – Pipe tune, Hornpipe, Trad Scottish (and Shetland), Modern

Try listening to the tune when you are “resting” or sitting out. What style is it?

Tune Structure

Tunes usually have 2 parts, labelled A and B. They're 8 bars long so A+B=16 bars. To get 32 bars we repeat A and B. This gives us options for different dances: AABB, ABAB, ABBA (plus an extra 8 for 40 bars)

Try listening to the AB tune structure while you are dancing. Does it help you remember the dance sometimes? Or would it have, if in a different order?

Phrasing

We try to help the dancing by matching the phrasing of the tune to the formations in the dance.

Listen to tune phrasing while you are dancing – does it help you with your phrasing?

Making up a set for a dance

We try to signal the start of a new dance sequence – particularly a new couple - in several ways: Change of key, long lead note, cut...

Listen for the new tune at each new start. Did it help you know when to start dancing?