The Singing Call

Michael Braithwaite July 9th 2022 for Newbie Caller Zoom Session

- * General Thoughts
- * Structure of a singing call
- * Hints
- * Trouble spots
- * Choreographic examples

General Thoughts

While there are many aspects we have to deal with as callers, you are never closer being a singer and/or an entertainer when performing a singing call. Many dancers feel that the singing call is the real dancing and fun part of a tip, while the patter is the hard work. And after the hard work they should be rewarded. So when the singing call is the reward, we have to be at our best.

In the singing call we are dealing with two major parts:

Singing	and	Choreo
emotional		intellectual
art		craft

Both combined at its best will make the dancing experience.

It will take a lot of work and practice!

Before the Art you must master the Craft.

In the craft there's right or wrong. Not so in the art. It is like or dislike.

Structure of a singing call

Part	Beats	Sequence	Content
	various	Intro	Music/ Lyrics
1	64	Opener	Circle, Grand Square etc
2	64	Figure 1	Heads Square Thru
3	64	Figure 2	Heads Lead Right
4	64	Middle Break	Alamo Ring, 4 Ladies Chain
5	64	Figure 3	Sides Promenade Half Way
6	64	Figure 4	Sides Pass The Ocean
7	64	Closer	Allemande Thar
	various	Tag	Music/ Lyrics

We (Callers) talk in beats when measuring the length of a musical phrase.

Musicians talk in bars. 4/4 of a bar 16 bars = 64 beats;

2/4 of a bar 32 bars = 64 beats;

Hints

Usually Figure 1 and 2 are used for the Heads to start and Figure 3 and 4 for the Sides. It is possible to alternate the Figures between Heads and Sides. But because the ladies progress after every Figure and to ensure that they get equal share, Figure 1 and 4 or 2 and 3 have to be started by the same group (Heads or Sides).

Try to built up the choreo like a musical theme.

Be adjustable with your choreo. Respond to the floor.

Listen to the music and let special instrumental arrangements carry the singing call as if it was a real song.

If there are two different musical phrases and one is used in the Figures you could start part 5 (Figure 3) with a Grand Square and sing the lyrics. Then use a Square thru to get to the Corner for a Swing and Promenade.

Try to give the dancers the first beat of the musical phrase. This means you may have sacrifice some of your singing in order to give the call in time.

Know your music!!!!!

Trouble Spots

In part 5 dancers start to get unfocused. Also they tend to grab their original partner, when being confused.

Remind! Whenever playing around, dancers have to win. Best, when they mess up, they still get the right partner.

The more complex the calls are, the harder for the caller to get a corner progression.

Dancers can hardly recover when they fail, because everything is timed out.

Variety versus same Figure four times.

Sight call Singing Calls ???!!

Choreographic Examples

Example 1

Hd/Sd **Square Thru 4 Right Hand Star full around** Left Hand Star in the middle full around Right and Left Thru, Swing Thru, Swing Thru **Swing and Promenade**

Right and Left Thru, Swing Thru, Recycle Right and Left Thru, Half Sashay, Pass Thru, U Turn Back

Slide Thru, Square Thru 3

(Dosado,) Touch 1/4, Scoot Back, (Scoot Back)

Swing Thru, Boys Trade, Turn Thru, Left Allemande

Example 2

Hd/Sd

Square Thru 4

Dosado Make a Wave
Centers Trade
Swing Thru
Boys (Centers) Run
Tag the Line
Girls (Leaders) Face Right — Twice

Swing Thru, Swing Thru, Girls Run (Centers), Tag the Line, Boys (Leaders) Face Right, Twice

(Swing and) Promenade

Swing Thru, Swing Thru, Girls Run (Centers), Tag the Line, Boys (Leaders) Face Right, Boys Run Right, Girls Face Left

Example 3

Hd/Sd Square Thru 4

Dosado Make a Wave Centers Trade Spin the Top Hinge Walk and Dodge Face Right — Twice Swing Thru

Swing and Promenade

Right and Left Thru, Spin the Top, Hinge, Walk and Dodge, Face Right

— Twice