

Letters and Announcements

SUBMITTING ADS AND ARTICLES

Articles, letters, poems and photographs about contra and traditional square dance, English country dance, morris and sword dance, dance tunes, folksongs, and the dance and music community are welcome. Newly-composed dances and tunes also are welcome, as are new looks at historical dances and tunes. Please contact the editor for guidelines or send submissions to news@cdss.org (maximum size for most articles: 1,500 words, 750 words for essays and event reviews). We may edit for length and clarity.

Go to www.cdss.org/upcoming-events.html for UPCOMING EVENTS. To include an event, send date, name of event, town/state, sponsoring group, website or phone/email to events@cdss.org.

PERSONAL ADS (75 words maximum) are free for CDSS members and \$5 for nonmembers.

AD SIZES & RATES

full page, 7-1/8" wide x 9-1/4" high, \$440
half page horizontal, 7-1/8" wide x 4-3/8" high, \$250
half page vertical, 3-3/8" wide x 9-1/4" high, \$250
quarter page, 3-3/8" wide x 4-3/8" high, \$175

CDSS members may take a 50% discount from these rates. Anyone placing the same size ad in three consecutive issues may take a 10% discount. Please include a note saying which issue(s) your ad is for.

SENDING ADS

Ads must be black and white or grayscale. Please send electronically to news@cdss.org (PDF, JPG or TIF, with 300-600 dpi, fonts and images embedded), with check or Visa/Mastercard info sent same day.

DEADLINES

Spring—February 1st (issue mailed early March)
Summer—May 1st (issue mailed early June)
Fall—August 1st (issue mailed early September)
Winter—November 1st (issue mailed early December)



Follow us on Facebook,
www.facebook.com/cdss.org,
or our blog,
<http://blog.cdss.org>.

SUPPORT

CDSS is a 501(c)3 organization; dues and donations are tax deductible. For the many ways you can support us and the community at large, visit <http://www.cdss.org/ways-to-give.html>. Your help is much appreciated.

PLANNED GIVING

Does your will include the Country Dance and Song Society? If not, please consider helping to ensure that the programs, publications and services that matter to you continue in the future with a bequest. It's practical and tax deductible. For information about bequests and other ways to support CDSS, see our website at www.cdss.org/planned-giving.html.

Website Kits Being Considered

We are exploring the idea of providing a website kit, to make good sites easier to create and maintain (the kit will, of course, be adaptable to the needs of each group). Before beginning this project, it seems wise to ask a few questions. What features and characteristics are most critical? What do you see on other sites that you'd love to add to yours? Please take a minute to respond to our brief survey—to let us know your needs, your ideas, and how we can be most helpful: <http://tinyurl.com/CDSS-website-survey>. Thanks for sharing your thoughts!

David Means and Scott Higgs
CDSS Web Technology Task Group

Rethink Those Tunes?

I'm compelled to write about my increasing discomfort and dislike of what I see as a move in contemporary English country dance music towards the style of contra music.

The simplest tests of whether a piece of music is really right (to me) for English country dance is "can the melody be sung?" and does the melody stick in your mind or even haunt you?

Much of the original English country dance canon *were* songs (though the words to most have been lost). For starters, and the traditional benchmark, go through the first Barnes book*—tune after tune is singable, with beguiling, sparkling *melodies* and grace in every measure. In their pre-media period a catchy melody and lyrics was one of *the* central ways to advertise and communicate a persistent message in politics, commerce and everyday life—a good melody was key—and *Barnes I* is full of them. More recently the work of Pat Shaw, Fried Herman, Charlene Thompson, Jonathan Jensen, Colin Hume, and much of the lovely music of *Barnes II* is just as melodic.

But increasingly I see contemporary English country dance music showing up with the hammering, driving, ornamented and arpeggiated style that I associate with contra tunes. These tunes just don't have much melody—doodley, doodley, doodley (reels) or tata-tata (jigs). While they have a lot of punch and drive, that's a downhill path ("Let's top that with something even punchier and more driving!!") that, to me, leads away from the grace and inner harmony of classic English country dance music. And if you strip away the arpeggios and ornamentation of that sort of music, there is hardly anything there; it would take an operatic recitative to "sing" it. To me it's shallow, clever artifice that all sounds the same. What it is perhaps, is the music that falls readily to the hands on violin. In fairness, there is some such in the original canon, like the Devil's Horse, a.k.a. Black Nag, but they are a small minority.

So, I'd ask those of you who write and call dances to consider: is the music really tuneful, singable, really an English country dance melody...or more of a contra tune?

Stewart Dean, Kingston, NY

* *Barnes Book of English Country Dances Tunes (Vols. I and II)*, by Peter Barnes, available through the CDSS Store, <http://www.cdss.org/store-home.html>, and elsewhere.

Summer Fundraising Goal Reached

Scholarships, and many of our outreach and education programs, are funded in part by the generosity of participants at our summer programs. This summer, we exceeded our goal of \$52,000! Many thanks to everyone who contributed by donating an item to the auction, bidding at the auction, and/or making an outright gift in support of Scholarships and Special Programs.

Our annual appeal is now underway. We hope you will participate! It's easy to make a secure gift online, at <http://www.cdss.org/appeal>, or you can send a check to CDSS, 116 Pleasant Street #345, Easthampton, MA 01027.

Robin Hayden, Director of Development

Membership Dues Going Up on March 1

The Governing Board has approved an increase in Basic Membership rates for the first time in seven years. Basic Individual membership will change from \$45 to \$50; Basic Family membership, from \$65 to \$75. All other rates, including those for Limited Income and Groups, will remain the same. The new rates will take effect on March 1, 2013.

Raising our membership rates will allow us to keep up with rising costs and strengthen our organizational capacity. At the same time, we're continuing to find ways to enhance the value of membership, offering more services and resources specifically for members (like our new partnership with Fractured Atlas; see the Director's Report on page 7).

If your membership expires between March and July of 2013, you may choose to renew early—before March 1—at the old rates. If you take advantage of this offer, please include a note letting us know what your payment is for. Thanks, as always, for your support of CDSS through membership!

Camp Jobs Available ~ Apply Now!

Each year we need help running our summer dance and music camps. If one of the following jobs appeals to you, write to Steve Howe, camp@cdss.org.

Sound system operators are needed at all weeks, with compensation ranging from full scholarship to paid staff, depending on the session. Office positions are available at Pinewoods from June 27-August 31, at Timber Ridge from August 10-18, and at Ogontz from August 2-10. These include bookstore and auction management as well as other logistical tasks.

In exchange for full scholarships, we need lifeguards with CPR/First Aid certificates for all sessions, dining hall managers for all sessions, and a doctor or nurse for Family and Campers' weeks. Some partial scholarships are also available at Ogontz for kitchen and/or grounds work, at Timber Ridge for setup work, and at all Family and Campers' weeks, for evening monitoring of sleeping children as well as for assistant lifeguards. See the back page of this issue for weeks, dates and week directors.

Steve Howe, Director of Programs

Updates and Corrections to the Last Issue

The photo of George Fogg in the straw hat (page 7) was taken by Jeffrey Bary during the Orion Longsword Jubilee celebration in 2011; the photo of George in costume was taken at Martha Mary Chapel at Longfellow's Wayside Inn in Sudbury, Massachusetts and was courtesy of Lynn Bjorklund. The obituary for Mike Head came from HATDS's website, not the Houston Chronicle. The correct name for the band mentioned in the Toronto Island Dance article is Back Up and Push.



~ GIFT MEMBERSHIP ~

Give the gift of CDSS! A CDSS membership makes a great gift for students, young families, new dancers, the musicians or organizers in your community—the possibilities are endless. Take advantage of our special holiday discount: now through the end of the year, Gift Memberships (individual or family) are available at the incredibly low price of \$20 each. SPECIAL HOLIDAY OFFER—We're also offering an amazing package deal: for \$40 (\$36 + shipping) you can purchase a Gift Membership PLUS Contra Dance Calendar, a savings of \$49 off the regular combined price. This offer extends through December 31, 2012. Orders must be received by December 17 for delivery before Christmas—go to <http://www.cdss.org/product-details/product/gift-membership.html> to order. For new or lapsed members only; not intended for current members.

Recent Outreach Funds Offered

For the October 2012 quarter, CDSS support totaling \$2,300 was offered to the following projects and events:

- Traditional Arts Weekend (instruction for contras, calling and rapper at 25th anniversary of annual festival, MI)
- Fresno Callers Workshops (training sessions for beginning contra and English country dance callers, CA)
- Uptown Greenville Square Dance (series introducing squares to new area, including calling mentorships, NC)
- Dancing at Freedom Middle School (contra dance workshops and final dance with Wild Asparagus, FL)
- Traditional Arts Exchange (planning grant for event organizer in OH to build new program for bringing contra and English country dancing to China)
- Empty Bowls Contra Dance (community contra dance and fundraiser for LA Regional Food Pantry, CA)
- Fairbanks Musicians Workshop (weekend training event for English country dance musicians, AK)
- Dandelion Romp (workshops at student-organized contra dance events weekend at Oberlin College, OH)

Want to support traditional music and dance in *your* community or region? CDSS can help! Contact Linda Henry at linda@cdss.org or visit <http://www.cdss.org/support-funding.html> to apply for funding. Application deadlines in 2013 are February 1, June 1, and October 1. And you can help grow our Outreach funds—to donate to Outreach and Scholarships, go to <http://www.cdss.org/special-funds.html>. To see a list of Outreach support projects, visit <http://www.cdss.org/our-funds-at-work.html>.

CDSS Outreach Funds at work



Fiddle Camp, OR, 2012

helping others make things happen

TESTIMONIAL ~ “I cannot envision how CDSS could have been more helpful. Providing the financial security to back part of the stipend for our dance master gave our camp the opportunity to grow in a different direction. ...Our campers are looking forward to more dance instruction [and] imagine how the development of future community dancing in the Pacific Northwest is affected by these musicians who have discovered how music and dance are bound together in an equally active relationship.” (~ Carla Arnold, Fiddle Camp, Wallowa, OR, 2012)

Lifetime Contribution Award Recommendations Sought for 2013

Nominations for the next Lifetime Contribution Award must be received by January 2, 2013. Send your recommendations to awards@cdss.org or to Awards Committee chair Mary Devlin, mary@mdevlin.com. If you prefer snailmail, send information to Mary at 2230 SW Sunset Drive, Portland, OR 97239.

Your recommendation must include the name, address, phone number and email address of the person you are recommending as well as your own name and full contact information. **NEW:** Recommendations must be for living persons. Please include a one-page explanation of why the person deserves the award.

For additional criteria, please see the last issue (page 5) or visit our website at <http://www.cdss.org/awards.html>.

Lifetime Award Party

The award celebration in October for George Fogg was terrific! See our blog: <http://blog.cdss.org/2012/10/a-festive-celebration-for-george-fogg/>.

Recent Deaths

Obituaries will be on our website by mid-December for the following friends and members: Ivor Allsop, Arthur Cornelius and Joan Barnert Goldstein.