

Styling

Susan Morris, Redmond, Washington

Callerlab Convention April 10-12, 2017, Mesa, AZ

Presenters: Susan Morris, moderator, and Bob Riggs, panelists

Description: Dancing is entertaining for us, the dancer, when we can execute the called choreography smoothly and elegantly in a way that makes us look and feel good. This implies that the square can execute each figure as a team. Many performance teams have taken this one step further, by developing consistent style in the execution of each call and including flourishes and flair to enhance the show.

DANCERS

The foundation of styling is to know the calls and be able to execute them correctly in conjunction with the rest of the dancers in the square. Squares need to work together as a team.

DANCERS NEED:

- To know how to do the call
- To know which hand or arm to use and which way to turn
- To know when the square needs to breathe or how to counter dance
- To touch hands at the completion of each call
- To give some weight to hand turns and arm turns
- To be aware of where they are in the formation and who is their current partner
- To keep the square the right size in order to execute the calls with correct timing
- To have eye contact with other dancers
- To have confidence in their knowledge of calls to respond in a timely fashion
- To cooperate with the other seven dancers to be successful
- To work together and finish together

CALLERS

The foundation of good calling is to know the calls and be able to call them correctly with smooth choreography. Dancers and callers need to work together as a team.

CALLERS NEED:

- To read the current Callerlab definitions including the styling tips
- To teach each call thoroughly including the styling
- To deliver the calls with correct timing to encourage smooth dancing
- To deliver the calls with good enunciation and diction
- To call modules or combinations of calls with good flow
- To avoid stop and start dancing
- To dance with their dancers
- **TO PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACH**

THE BOTTOM LINE – DANCERS AND CALLERS:

- Be kind!
- Be courteous!
- Trust each other!
- Work together as a team!
- Don't rush!
- Smile!
- **HAVE FUN!**