

Southwest International Folk Dance Camp, Socorro, NM
Teaching Notes by Jacqueline Schwab
Music by Earl Gaddis, Mary Lea and Jacqueline Schwab, of *Bare Necessities*

Dear Socorro dancers,

Enclosed are my teaching directions for the English country dances I'll be teaching at Socorro. I've supplied directions for more dances than we'll have a chance to do, so I can tailor the program to the group, once I've met you!

A background note: The English country dances we'll dance in Socorro have their deep roots in historical English social dancing, going back to at least Queen Elizabeth I's day, with the earliest publication, Playford's *The English Dancing Master*, first published in 1651, during the Puritan era. Dancing was a chief form of social entertainment, across all classes, although the classes did not mingle at dance events and presumably danced different choreographies and in different styles. The 17th-century publications which have come down to us were addressed to the upper classes. The country dances evolved and traveled to Europe and America, and then, in the nineteenth century, gradually died out, supplanted by the waltz, mazurka, polka and other ballroom couple dances. Country dancing did survive in some small villages. At the turn of the 20th century, music and dance enthusiast Cecil Sharp revived the long-out-of-fashion 17th- and 18th-century dances—first in England and then in America. Our modern style of dancing owes as much to the Cecil Sharp-created style, as it does to the more complex period style, and it continues to evolve. Today, people fall in love with English dancing for many different reasons, including English culture, the social and flirtatious opportunities in the dances, the beautiful tunes, the geometric figures, the lyrical, forward-moving style, and the dance community.

The dance directions here are meant only as reminders. If you wished to teach a dance, I'd suggest you obtain the choreographers' and reconstructors' publications—i.e., learn “from the horse's mouth.” Many of these publications are available from the Country Dance and Song Society's, at cdss.org. For a “starter book,” I'd recommend *The Playford Ball*, by Genevieve Shimer and Kate VanWinkle Keller, which has some background information on the dancing, basic instructions for the dance figures, and choreographies for many of the reconstructed 17th- and 18th-century English country dances popular in America about 20 years ago. Since then, there has been an explosion of wonderful new choreographies and reconstructions, continuing today, so it can be hard to keep up! There are now also publications that go along with the Boston Centre CD series.

To find music lead sheets for (many of) these dances, I recommend purchasing Peter Barnes' two volumes of fake books, *English Country Dance Tunes*, which you may order from [peter @ canispublishing.com](mailto:peter@canispublishing.com) or else from cdss.org

To purchase Bare Necessities recordings, contact Jacqueline (my e-mail below), Mary, Earl or Peter, of Bare Necessities or else cdss.org. The dances in the notes are from the following CDs:

Take A Dance:
The Fandango
Knives and Forkes

Nightcap:
Barbarini's Tambourine
Mayfair (under Grimstock)

Boston Centre Series, v. I:
Bury Fair
Easter Morn
Hudson Barn
The Merry Salopians (The Old Mill)
Sally in Our Alley

Boston Centre Series, v. II:
Kelsterne Gardens

Boston Centre Series, v. III:

Farewell Marian

Freeford Gardens

I Care Not for These Ladies

Jacob Hall's Jig

The Ragg

Yellow Stockings

Boston Centre Series, v. IV:

Ashford Anniversary

The Homecoming

Shandy Hall

Boston Centre Series, v. V:

Boston Centre Series, v. VI:

Leather Lake House

Turn of the Tide

Boston Centre Series, v. VII:

The Midnight Ramble

Red and All Red

Stepping Stones

Boston Centre Series, v. VIII:

Rafe's Waltz

Boston Centre Series, v. IX:

The Braes of Dornoch

The Hop Ground

Row Well, Ye Mariners

Boston Centre Series, v. X:

Beach Spring

Companions

Key to the Cellar

Laura's Waltz

Puck's Deceit

Boston Centre Series, v. XI:

The Fast Packet

Boston Centre Series, v. XII

Mad Robin

Boston Centre Series, v. XIII:

Alice

Autumn in Amherst

Four Pence Ha'penny Farthing

Marina

Mendocino Redwood

The Play's the Thing

Wa' Is Me, What Mun I Do?

Wooden Shoes

For more information, contact me, at [jaspianist @ gmail.com](mailto:jaspianist@gmail.com) or (617) 775-7553. Thanks! Enjoy!
Jacqueline

