

## Dugan's Calling 101 Class

### Resources Shared After the Class

Last updated January 10, 2017

#### Collecting Dances

If you're interested in calling dances for people in the future, you should start collecting dances you like. The most common way callers collect contra dances is from each other at dances. You dance it, you like it, and you write it down, asking the caller that evening for the title and author if necessary. This is a good way to collect dances because you get a feel for them and their idiosyncrasies before you make the card.

If you'd like some sample dances written out, here are a few places to look. All of these sources have good and bad dances, except for the practice dances from the class.

- Appendix A: Choreography and easy prompts for four common contra dances (typed up by me).
- Appendix B: Choreography for all the dances from the practice session of the class, plus Youtube links for each dance.
- Michael Dyck's Contradance Index: <http://www.ibiblio.org/contradance/index/index.html>
- Contra dances by Cary Ravitz: <http://www.dance.ravitz.us/>
- Contra dances by Rick Mohr: <http://rickmohr.net/Contra/Dances.asp#Introduction>
- Seth Tepfer's list of contra dances for novice callers:  
<http://www.dancerhapsody.com/handouts/DancesEasyCall.pdf>
- Ralph Page Dance Legacy Weekend Syllabi:  
<https://www.library.unh.edu/find/archives/collections/ralph-page-dance-legacy-weekend>

## Other Resources

And here is a list of my favorite online resources for new callers.

- Info from CDSS for new callers: <http://www.cdss.org/50-how-to/contra/contra-callers>
- Handouts from Seth Tepfer: <http://www.dancerhapsody.com/Calling/Handouts.html> Check out the links in the top-right corner to PDF handouts. I use his "checklist for a gig" handout every time I get a gig somewhere I haven't called before.
- Shared Weight callers email listserv: [http://sharedweight.net/index.php?pagestate=callers\\_about](http://sharedweight.net/index.php?pagestate=callers_about). I'd say this is the primary method for contra callers around the country who don't necessarily know each other to ask questions of each other, make important announcements, and argue. I recommend joining. If you sign up for "digest" emails, you'll get fewer individual emails. You can also search the archives of the listserv for information.
- The Rising Contra Dance Callers of America Facebook group seems to be the secondary means for contra callers around the country to communicate with each other: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/377161165675/>. I don't pay any attention to it, but maybe you will.
- Cary Ravitz's Notes on Calling Contra Dances is the closest thing I have to a caller's bible. I don't follow every one of his recommendations, but I'd say I follow the great majority of them: <http://www.dance.ravitz.us/call.php>. There is a special section for beginning callers.

You might also find these links interesting, if you don't already know about them:

- Ted Crane's Dance Database: <http://tedcrane.com/DanceDB/>
- Cary Ravitz's Micro Robot Dance, for visualizing dances you can't find on Youtube: <http://www.dance.ravitz.us/mrd.php>
- <http://www.contradancelinks.com/>

## Appendix A: Choreography and Easy Prompts for Four Common Contra Dances

### Broken Sixpence by Don Armstrong (duple improper contra)

#### *Choreography as danced*

|    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| A1 | Neighbor do-si-do once (8)                  | Gents do-si-do once (8)                  |
| A2 | Ladies do-si-do once (8)                    | Ones swing in the middle (8)             |
| B1 | Down the hall four-in-line – turn alone (8) | Come back (8)                            |
| B2 | Circle left once (8)                        | Left hand star once to new neighbors (8) |

#### *Four-beat prompts for figures as danced*

|    |                               |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A1 | New neighbor do-si-do         | Just the gents do-si-do       |
| A2 | Just the ladies do-si-do      | Ones swing in the middle      |
| B1 | Down the hall four-in-line    | Turn alone and come on back   |
| B2 | Bend the line and circle left | Left hands in, left hand star |

#### *Four-beat prompts as called with the music*

|    |                                       |                                       |
|----|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A1 | 1 2 3 4 Just the gents do-si-do       | 1 2 3 4 Just the ladies do-si-do      |
| A2 | 1 2 3 4 Ones swing in the middle      | 1 2 3 4 Down the hall four-in-line    |
| B1 | 1 2 3 4 Turn alone and come on back   | 1 2 3 4 Bend the line and circle left |
| B2 | 1 2 3 4 Left hands in, left hand star | 1 2 3 4 New neighbor do-si-do         |

## AI's Safeway Produce by Robert Cromartie (duple improper contra)

### *Choreography as danced*

|    |                                 |                                   |
|----|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A1 | Left hand star once (8)         | Neighbor allemande left 1.5 (8)   |
| A2 | Ladies allemande right (8)      | Partner swing (8)                 |
| B1 | Circle left 3 places (8)        | Neighbor swing (8)                |
| B2 | Long lines forward and back (8) | Right hand star to new couple (8) |

### *Four-beat prompts for figures as danced*

|    |                             |                                   |
|----|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A1 | New couple left hand star   | With your neighbor allemande left |
| A2 | Two ladies allemande right  | On the side partner swing         |
| B1 | Circle left three places    | On the side neighbor swing        |
| B2 | Long lines forward and back | Right hands in, right hand star   |

### *Four-beat prompts as called with the music*

|    |   |                                     |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| A1 | 1 2 3 4 With your neighbor allemande left | 1 2 3 4 Two ladies allemande right  |
| A2 | 1 2 3 4 On the side partner swing         | 1 2 3 4 Circle left three places    |
| B1 | 1 2 3 4 On the side neighbor swing        | 1 2 3 4 Long lines forward and back |
| B2 | 1 2 3 4 Right hands in, right hand star   | 1 2 3 4 New couple left hand star   |

## Delphiniums and Daisies by Tanya Rotenberg (duple improper contra)

### *Choreography as danced*

|    |                                     |                                  |
|----|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A1 | Neighbor allemande left 1.5 (8)     | Ladies chain to partner (8)      |
| A2 | Ladies pass right for full hey (16) | ---                              |
| B1 | Partner balance and swing (16)      | ---                              |
| B2 | Circle left three places (8)        | Neighbor allemande right 1.5 (8) |

### *Four-beat prompts for figures as danced*

|    |                                   |                               |
|----|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A1 | New neighbor allemande left       | Ladies chain across the set   |
| A2 | Ladies start a full hey           | ---                           |
| B1 | To your partner balance and swing | ---                           |
| B2 | Circle left three places          | Same neighbor allemande right |

### *Four-beat prompts as called with the music*

|    |                                       |   |
|----|---------------------------------------|---|
| A1 | 1 2 3 4 Ladies chain across the set   | 1 2 3 4 Ladies start a full hey           |
| A2 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8                       | 1 2 3 4 To your partner balance and swing |
| B1 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8                       | 1 2 3 4 Circle left three places          |
| B2 | 1 2 3 4 Same neighbor allemande right | 1 2 3 4 New neighbor allemande left       |

## The Nice Combination by Gene Hubert (duple improper contra)

### *Choreography as danced*

|    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| A1 | Neighbor balance and swing (16)              | ---                                     |
| A2 | Down the hall 4-in-line - turn as couple (8) | Come back (8)                           |
| B1 | Circle left 3 places (8)                     | Partner swing (8)                       |
| B2 | Ladies chain to neighbor (8)                 | Left hand star once to new neighbor (8) |

### *Four-beat prompts for figures as danced*

|    |                                |                                   |
|----|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A1 | New neighbor balance and swing | ---                               |
| A2 | Down the hall 4-in-line        | Turn as a couple and come on back |
| B1 | Bend the line and circle left  | Partner swing on the side         |
| B2 | Ladies chain across            | Left hands in, left hand star     |

### *Four-beat prompts as called with the music*

|    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| A1 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8                           | 1 2 3 4 Down the hall 4-in-line        |
| A2 | 1 2 3 4 Turn as a couple and come on back | 1 2 3 4 Bend the line and circle left  |
| B1 | 1 2 3 4 Partner swing on the side         | 1 2 3 4 Ladies chain across            |
| B2 | 1 2 3 4 Left hands in, left hand star     | 1 2 3 4 New neighbor balance and swing |

## Appendix B: Dances from the Practice Session of the Class

*Note the bullet points with questions and other items you should consider when making your dance card.*

“Frederick Reel” by Tom Hinds (duple improper contra)

A1 Long lines forward & back (8); Ladies allemande left 1.5 (8)

A2 Partner balance and swing (16)

B1 Down the hall four in line - Turn as couples (8); Come back - Bend the line (8)

B2 Circle left 3 places (8); Neighbor swing (8)

- How do ladies find new ladies to allemande?
- “Turn as couple” prompt can merge with “come back” prompt.
- “Bend line” prompt can merge with “circle” prompt.

“Streetsboro Daisies” by Cary Ravitz (duple improper contra)

A1 Neighbor allemande L 1.5 (8); Ladies pass right to start half hey (8)

A2 Neighbor balance and swing (16)

B1 Men allemande left 1.5 (8); Partner swing (8)

B2 Circle left 3 places (8); Neighbor allemande right 1.5 (8)

- How do dancers find their new neighbor?

“Push the Button” by Rick Mohr (kind of) (duple improper contra)

A1 Neighbor balance and swing (16)

A2 Long lines forward and back (8); Ladies chain (8)

B1 Ladies do-si-do once (8); Partner swing (8)

B2 Circle left 3 places (8); Balance the ring (4); Pass through (4)

“Monday” by Jim Hemphill (duple improper contra)

A1 Neighbor allemande right 1.5 (8); Men allemande left 1.5 (8)

A2 Partner spiral (gypsy) and swing (16)

B1 Circle left 3 places (8); Neighbor swing (8)

B2 Right and left through across (8); Left hand star once (8)

- How do dancers find their new neighbor?

“Jenny Goes to Camp” by Steve Zakon-Anderson (duple improper contra)

A1 Neighbor balance and swing (16)

A2 Men allemande left 1.5 (8); Partner right shoulder spiral (gypsy) 1.5 (8)

B1 Ladies pass left to start half hey (8); Partner swing (8)

B2 Circle left 3 places (8); Neighbor do-si-do 1.5 (8)

- How do dancers find their new neighbor?

- How do dancers know they've spiraled 1 ½?

"Butter" by Gene Hubert (clockwise becket contra)

A1 Circle left 3 places (8); Neighbor swing (8)  
 A2 Long lines forward and back (8); Ladies chain (8)  
 B1 Ladies pass right to start full hey (16)  
 B2 Partner balance and swing - slide left to find a new couple (16)

"Tuesday Night in Indianapolis" by Dugan Murphy (clockwise becket contra)

A1 Ladies chain (8); Ladies pass right to start half hey (8)  
 A2 Neighbor balance and swing (16)  
 B1 Long lines forward and back (8); Men allemande left 1.5 (8)  
 B2 Partner balance and swing - slide left to find a new couple (16)

"Star Trek" by Mike Richardson (clockwise becket contra)

A1 Hands across right hand star once (8); Ladies chain (8)  
 A2 Ladies pass right to start full hey (16)  
 B1 Ladies pass right (4); Partner swing (12)  
 B2 Long lines forward and back (8); Right hand star once - slide left to find new couple (8)

- How do you know when stars have gone all the way around?
- What is a smooth way to get the men out of the way and put the ladies in position for the chain?
- Note that the partner swing does not start at the top of B1. If you call it that way dancers will think they're late.
- The prompt for the ladies to pass right can merge into the prompt for partners to swing.
- Say something to get dancers to take hands across in the star since the default star formation in Maine is a wrist grip

"The Baby Rose" by David Kaynor (duple improper contra)

A1 Neighbor balance and swing (16)  
 A2 Circle left 3 places (8); Partner do-si-do (8)  
 B1 Partner balance and swing (16)  
 B2 Ladies chain (8); Left hand star once (8)

- How do dancers find their new neighbor?
- Note that most dancers take only 6 beats to circle left ¾

"To Turn a Phrase" by Bob Isaacs (duple improper contra)

A1 Long lines forward and back (8); Whole set oval left (8)  
 A2 Whole set oval right (8); Ladies Allemande L 1.5 (8)  
 B1 Partner balance and swing (16)  
 B2 Circle left 3 places (8); Neighbor swing (8)

- How do ladies know they've found the right one to allemande?
- How far do they oval left?
- How far do they oval right?
- How do dancers which couple to take hands with to circle?
- Make sure dancers will know when to oval and when to circle.

## Links

"Frederick Reel" by Tom Hinds (duple improper contra)

[https://youtu.be/ZCJd\\_YNG\\_zc](https://youtu.be/ZCJd_YNG_zc)

"Streetsboro Daisies" by Cary Ravitz (duple improper contra)

<https://youtu.be/qZ12uX7Vvow>

"Jenny Goes to Camp" by Steve Zakon-Anderson (duple improper contra)

<https://youtu.be/ta8Fakix70Y>

"Push the Button" by Rick Mohr (kind of) (duple improper contra)

<https://youtu.be/wGEKchCNYXg>

"Butter" by Gene Hubert (clockwise becket contra)

<https://youtu.be/PGpkkb5wAtY>

"Tuesday Night in Indianapolis" by Dugan Murphy (clockwise becket contra)

<http://www.dance.ravitz.us/mrd.php>

*Copy and paste the text below into the white window to see the robot dancers go!*

Tuesday Night in Indianapolis - Dugan Murphy

becket

chain

halfheypassright

balanceandswing

longlines

menallemandeleft1.5

gypsyandswing

"Star Trek" by Mike Richardson (clockwise becket contra)

[https://youtu.be/EGVui\\_GQYOE](https://youtu.be/EGVui_GQYOE)

"The Baby Rose" by David Kaynor (duple improper contra)

<https://youtu.be/5zsCQJ7etHM>

"Monday" by Jim Hemphill (duple improper contra)

<https://youtu.be/KJjGuhRreZc>

"To Turn a Phrase" by Bob Isaacs (duple improper contra)

<https://youtu.be/flwYcQkV-Lc> (note give-and-take variation in place of circle)