

CHICAGO CONTRA DANCE LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

October 16-18th 2009

Contra Dance Callers Course with **LISA GREENLEAF**

An intensive workshop designed for advanced-beginner through intermediate callers who are ready to work hard at getting to the next level, this course is designed and led by **Lisa Greenleaf**. It is a concise version of the course she offers at Pinewoods Camp in Massachusetts, and in the Bay Area. Lisa brings many years of experience to her callers' workshops. While calling at camps across the country as well as in Europe, she particularly enjoys observing how people learn to dance as well as how they build effective dance communities.

Calling is more than getting up and prompting a dance. To become a good caller one must understand choreography, craft a concise teaching vocabulary, gain knowledge of the different styles of dance music, accept feedback, develop leadership skills, become comfortable behind the mic, learn how to handle mistakes or unexpected situations, and to work with musicians. The course will focus on two particular areas: teaching skills and stage presence. Due to limited time, the course will cover contras only.

Lisa's goal is for you to streamline your teaching and to project an effective stage persona. To get the most out of the work, you will need to have a "beginner's mind", no matter how long you have been calling. You will have to be open to making mistakes and to receiving constructive feedback and supportive suggestions. You will then be expected to incorporate those suggestions quickly.

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS:

- *Be familiar with the AAB structure of contra dance music*
- *Know the difference between a jig and a reel*
- *Know how to cue the first figure of the dance off of the four potatoes*
- *Know how and when to signal the band to go out*
- *Have called at least 3 individual contras in a real dance setting with live music*
- *Have a repertoire of at least 3 dances you know and feel comfortable teaching and calling*
- *Attend contra dances regularly, being familiar with the moves, the culture, and the music*
- *Be prepared to receive and incorporate feedback, even with a lot of calling experience*

Participation in the callers' course is limited to ten students. A committee will evaluate applicants based on potential, level of serious commitment, and likelihood of making a contribution to their home dance community. We may have to limit the number of participants per community if we're oversubscribed.

SCHEDULE:

- Friday night: round table discussion over potluck dinner, starting 7:30
- Saturday day: workshop, including working with local band in afternoon
- Saturday night: public dance at Ida Noyes Hall called by participants and Lisa. Music from Pete Sutherland, Jeremiah McLane, Mark Roberts
- Sunday morning: (tentative) debriefing over brunch
- Sunday afternoon: advanced dance called by Lisa

***The cost for the course has been kept very low, at \$60, and we will try to find you local housing.
Locations for the discussion sessions are still being finalized.***

Presented at the University of Chicago, by the UofC Folk Arts Community, <http://fac.uchicago.edu/>
with support from the Country Dance and Song Society outreach fund, <http://www.cdss.org/>

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Applications must be sent to the workshop coordinators postmarked by August 31, 2009. Please send in check for \$60, payable to The University of Chicago, with your application. Checks will be processed if applicants are accepted and returned otherwise.

Edward Wallace
4612 N. Beacon St., apt 3F
Chicago IL, 60640

You will be notified of your acceptance on September 14, 2009. If you are accepted, you will be sent further information.

If you have further questions, please contact Edward Wallace at ewallace@uchicago.edu or 773-517-4009.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone number(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

(please circle preferred contact method)

Home Dance Community: _____

How many years have you been contra dancing? _____

How long have you been calling contra dances? _____

How would you rate your level of skill as a caller? _____

- a) novice (called a little bit, but few if any full evenings)
- b) beginner-intermediate (called some full evenings)
- c) intermediate (have lots of experience)

Do you have a mentor, or is there a caller in your area who could be your mentor?

What other forms of dance have you experienced?

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*Below are some serious questions to answer thoughtfully.
We encourage you to mull them over for a while before answering.*

Why are you a contra dance caller?

What are your professional goals as a caller (e.g., help out my local dance scene now and then, call regularly, start a new series, do dance camps, etc.)?

List three or four qualities you have that will make you a good caller.

List three or four qualities you have that will make you a good leader in your dance community.

Why do you want to attend this callers' course?

What do you hope to take back to your dance community from this course?