Handout for OAKE Eastern Division Tune-Up
October 25, 2019, George Mason University

Folk Dance Session presented by Robbin Marcus

Dances and play parties to be chosen from:

**Galopede** – English country dance, published in *Chimes of Dunkirk* on page 13
**Paw Paw Patch** – American play party collected by Richard Chase in *Singing Games and Play Parties.*
**Sweets of May** – dance by Dudley Laufman, published in *Chimes of Dunkirk* on page 12.
**Yankee Doodle** – American play party collected by Lynn Rohrbaugh in *The Handy Play Party.*
**Heel and Toe Polka** – American circle dance, published in *Chimes of Dunkirk* on page 21.
**Jim Along Josie** - American play party collected by Lynne Rohrbaugh in *The Handy Play Party.*
*This particular variant is extremely unusual, being the only play party I have been able to find in my research that contains the exact directions for the Virginia Reel, and containing a refrain that makes the play party more “flexible” as a dance. This song is included here for teacher reference only, as other variants of Jim Along Josie with verses are directly related to Minstrelry.*
**The Virginia Reel** – American line dance, published in *Chimes of Dunkirk* on page 15.
**Sasha!** – Danish couple dance, published in *Folk Dance Fun for Schools and Families* on page 5.
**The Alton Machine** – 3 couple modern English dance, directions below.

The Alton Machine directions
3 Couple set from DeLaura Padovan
jigs

A1  Gent 1 leads the gent’s line skipping around the lady’s line
A2  Lady 1 lead her line around the gents
B1  Couple 1 sashay down the set and back
B2  Couple 1 turn couple 2 by RH 1 ½ xs,
    Then turn couple 3 by LH 1 ½ xs, ending in 3rd position.

How is teaching dance like teaching Kodaly music education?

1)  Go from known to unknown - Use your Kodaly sequencing! What moves are the easiest for children? What moves are the hardest? Analyze, analyze, analyze.
2)  Use the sequence. Create a movement sequence for your school situation and follow it.
3)  Teach one new move at a time. The entire rest of the dance should be familiar.
4)  For play parties, the grade level of the song usually corresponds to the grade level of the dance. (Usually.) If they don’t match up, it’s not your best choice.
5)  Find the easiest way for kids to get a partner and use that method consistently.
6)  Don’t teach anything you haven’t danced yourself.
7)  How few words can you use in your teaching?
8)  It’s all about the music and the dance!
Bibliography

Here is a comprehensive list of my favorite North American Singing Game and Dance resources. Dances or playparties done in today’s session will be drawn from one of the sources below, and I will let you know the exact source at the time we do the dances.

Play Parties and Singing Games


Owens, William, *Swing and Turn*. Dallas, TX: Tardy Publishing Co, 1936


Spurgeon, Alan L, *Waltz the Hall*. MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2005


North American Folk Dance books:

Amidon, Peter, Brass, Mary Kay, and Davis, Andy, *Chimes of Dunkirk*. 6 Willow Street, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301: New England Dancing Masters Productions, 1991. (Book and CD or cassette.)

Amidon, Peter, Brass, Mary Kay, and Davis, Andy, *Listen to the Mockingbird*. 6 Willow Street, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301: New England Dancing Masters Productions, 1997. (Book and CD or cassette.)


Other dance sources not mentioned above:

More recent publications from New England Dancing Masters (*Sashay the Donut, I’m Growing Up, Maypole Dances*, etc) and from Marian Rose are all excellent dance and music resources as well.

For International Dance, I highly recommend the work of Sanna Longden, who has many DVDs, CDs and books available with dances from around the world.