

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

Botkin, B.A. *The American Play-Party Song*. New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing Co., 1963.

Chase, Richard, *Old Songs and Singing Games*. New York: Dover Publications, 1972, Chapel Hill, NC: UNC Press, 1938

Chase, Richard, *Singing Games and Play Party Games*. New York: Dover Publications, 1967, New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1949

MacIntosh, David, ed, *Singing Games and Dances*. New York, Association Press, 1957

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

Rorhbaugh, Lynn, Ridell, Celia, ed. *The Handy Play Party*. Burnsville, NY: World Around Songs, 1982 revised edition (originally published 1940)

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

Wolford, Leah Jackson, *The Play Party in Indiana*. Indianapolis, IN: The Indiana Historical Society, 1959

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.)

Dalsemer, Bob, *Folk Dance Fun for Schools and Families*. Brasstown, North Carolina: The John C. Campbell Folk School. 1995. (Book, cassette and video.)

Rose, Marian, *Step Lively: Dances for Schools and Families*. Published by the author, 1998.

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.