

Lethbridge Scottish Country Dance Club (LSCDC)

7 April 2021 email to LSCDC dancers and musicians

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St. Patrick's Day Performance and Slide Show online access to recorded video

Video of the 17 March class includes
The Spurtles' St. Patrick's-themed musical performance on harp, piano, and recorder
Fiona Miller's slide show from past LSCDC events.

*Provided you have the free Zoom app on a device, you do not need to know how to use Zoom nor do you need to attend a meeting; instead you simply **play the video at a time of your convenience** using the link and passcode below.*

Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/F3yv6v6dgY6LIBvMHxz4zEYtVcy9Z8Z4reYgasA8Mteb3_S3sRtAnvrMXNYu1adE.dIbvO33OkpdNg7aF

NOTE: if selecting the link brings up an error message, COPY the link and PASTE it in your browser

OR: select the link from Vaughan Coupland's email dated 22 March (Scottish Country Dance Wednesday, March 17)

Passcode: q&E40i*j

1 Calgary dancer and 15 LSCDC dancers and partners joined The Spurtles for the 17 March Zoom session

Next Zoom Music Session with The Spurtles

Wednesday 21 April 2021 at 7 pm

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for the next session. A link will be sent out.

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day in Word and Music



On 17 March, **St. Patrick's Day**, we enjoyed a tour de force performance by **The Spurtles**. In addition to music on harp, piano and recorder, we were treated to limericks, informative lectures by Peter McCormick on composers of Irish music and the dubious history of St Patrick, and an illuminating talk by Lorraine McCormick on how The Spurtles select tunes to create a harmonious dance set.

Screen shot by Gail Michener

The Spurtles began their session from their upstairs home studio, where Lorraine keeps her harp. With Peter accompanying on recorder, Lorraine played three Irish harp tunes, the modern tune *Inisheer* (composed in 1987) and two much-older tunes, *Fanny Power* and *Carolan's Welcome* both written by Turlough O'Carolan (1670-1738), who is often identified as Ireland's national composer. At least 200 of O'Carolan's tunes were saved for posterity by fellow musicians.

On moving down to their piano studio, The Spurtles prepared to play Irish-themed sets of music by first getting us into the spirit of things Irish, including reciting two limericks: *There once were Two Cats of Kilkenny* (you can look it up online or play the recorded video) and the other newly written by Lorraine:

*There once was a lass from the West
Whose piano was put to the test,
But then she got sharper
By becoming a harper,
And now can't decide which is best.*

After playing a set of jigs, Lorraine explained the intricate and complex decision-making required to build a set four tunes suitable for both listening and dancing. The first step is to select a catchy melodic tune which has some distinct musical features. The second tune needs to parallel one of those features but is different enough that the switch of tunes is detectable. The third tune provides a change of mood, then the fourth tune returns to the mood of the two opening tunes. The four tunes need to fit together seamlessly, so that the numerous switches from tune to tune (usually played for dancing in the order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4, 1) occur smoothly. With thousands of tunes in the repertoire, Lorraine is always on the look-out for another perfect combination of tunes. The Spurtles demonstrated their skill at matching tunes by ending their program with a set or reels and a set of strathspeys.

Slide Show of LSCDC Dancers

Fiona Miller presented a slide show highlighting dancers attending dance events through the Club's years, 1981 - 2021. The slide show starts with a series of images from the Grand March which opened the evening dance at our 2019 Beginner's Workshop, so there are many familiar faces -- including yourself most probably. Take a stroll down memory lane and see what some of us looked like in our younger days. *Hints*: the slide show begins at 43 min 50 sec on the recorded video; use the pause icon on the video if want to stop at a particular image and look more carefully at who is profiled.

This month's LSCDC Puzzle

Unscramble the Dance Words

Designed by Fiona Miller

Turn the scrambled words into 20 familiar dance terms.

1.	ateelnorpl	
2.	rtifs oenrrc	
3.	edmallnae	
4.	lere	
5.	dnlroe	
6.	trsyeatphs	
7.	icelcr	
8.	Idea wodn	
9.	ithrsg dan flste	
10.	ermdanpoe	
11.	nlbaace in einl	
12.	itgrh hnasd raoscs	
13.	dailse icanh	
14.	datnme eelr	
15.	vandcea dan reirte	
16.	tssepouet	
17.	dangr inahc	
18.	ntur	
19.	osscr	
20.	oelbdu rtilesnag	

Did you check the February and March quiz answers?

The answers to the February Match the Terminology quiz and the March Crossword #2 were **attachments** to the email sent by Secretary Andrea Neeb on 17 March with the Subject Happy St. Patrick's Day! If you missed the answers, contact Gail: michener@uleth.ca