



# Footnotes



Portland Country Dance Community • Fall 2020

## Portland Live!

### **Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> with COUNTERCURRENT**

*By Kathy Story*

We are delighted to announce that Countercurrent will be playing for your dancing and listening pleasure at our next Portland Live! event. Brian Lindsay on fiddle and Alex Sturbaum on guitar will be playing waltzes, contra dance tunes and other danceable delights streamed live.

This beloved contra dance and folk music band from Western Washington features driving guitar, foot percussion, lyrical fiddle and harmony vocals. Over ten years of playing together, Brian and Alex have developed a style that brings forth the joy and nuance in the music they play. The combination of Brian's



technical and tasteful tunesmithing with Alex's punchy rhythms and gifted songwriting is not to be missed. As they spread their music across the Northwest and beyond, Countercurrent continues to push their own boundaries with new compositions, lively arrangements, lush harmonies and driving grooves to keep you dancing and/or foot-tapping along. Every time we have the pleasure of hearing them, we ask ourselves, "How does so much music come from just two people?!"

Visit [www.countercurrentmusic.com](http://www.countercurrentmusic.com) or find them on Facebook for music samples and more info.

Join us at 5 pm for 30 minutes of conversation on Zoom with dance friends. Then we'll have music on both Zoom and YouTube Live from 5:30-6:15 pm. Following some brief announcements, the band will play for another 45 minutes. We wrap up with another half-hour of Zoom conversation until 7:30 pm.

As always, 100% of your generous tips that night will go directly to the musicians. Look for the "chat" bar on the right of the screen for instructions on how to donate.

If you haven't been getting email invitations directly with the Zoom instructions for our Portland Live! events, please email [raindance.pdx@gmail.com](mailto:raindance.pdx@gmail.com) to join our mailing list. Due to security concerns we do not post the Zoom instructions on social media.

Hope to see you on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>!

*[Kathy is the Chair of the Portland Contra Committee.]*

# Life in the Zoomiverse Part II: For the Musicians and Music Lovers Among Us

By Sue Songer

We are all missing getting together with friends, and for musicians, we are especially missing getting together with friends to play our beloved fiddle tunes. Nothing can quite match gathering in a space with great acoustics creating music, sitting close to each other, sharing stories, and often partaking of food and drink. Here are some options to help tide us over. All are welcome to join in any of these as a player or listener.

In Portland, in person—a socially distanced session at Wilshire Park (in NE Portland) as long as the weather holds. Tunes from *The Portland Collection* books and *The Waltz Books* by Bill Matthiesen. Masks are required (except wind players, who will seat themselves downwind). Contact Rick Piel at: rick at mr-rick dot org for more details. Bring a chair and clips (in case of wind).

In Seattle, via Zoom, bi-weekly on Monday evenings—a welcoming session led by Sande Gillette and Alan Roberts featuring a wide range of contra tunes from Road to Boston, to Out on the Ocean, to Chorus Jig, to Vladi on the Trans-Siberian. Tunes and sources for the tunes are announced well in advance of each session. Contact Sande at: sandegillette at mac dot com to join her mailing list and receive the Zoom link.

On Facebook, under AACTMAD in Ann Arbor—the Pearl Street Band Play Along. This group has recorded several tune sessions and listed the tunes and sets so that folks can join in or play along. Over the Waterfall, Old Joe Clark, Scollay's Reel and The Telephone Tune are a representative sample of tune types. This group has recorded several such sessions, accessible on their Facebook page for a few weeks after they are posted there. At this writing, one session has been posted.

On the web and on Facebook—Shannon Heaton (Irish flute) and her husband Matt Heaton (guitar) lead a weekly session of Irish tunes, played at a moderate tempo with lots of warm-hearted discussion. It is live every Saturday from 11 am-12 noon (Pacific Time) and saved on YouTube

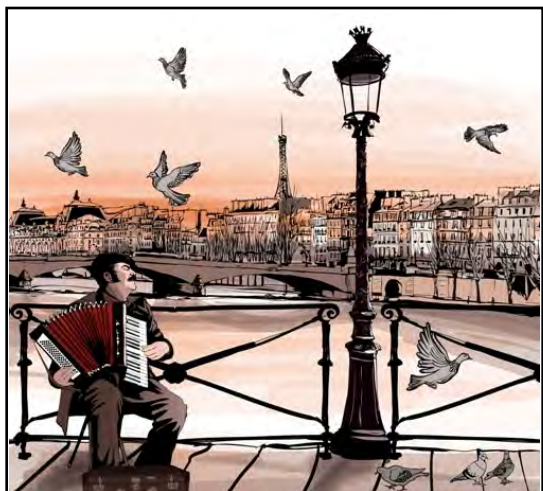
for later viewing (search under “Virtual Guided Session”). Her website, [www.shannonheatonmusic.com](http://www.shannonheatonmusic.com), offers many other opportunities for learning. And her Facebook page (again, search for “Virtual Guided Session”) has a lot of discussion about the tunes, sometimes including sheet music.

On YouTube and Facebook—l'Esprit d'Souches Jam Secret #4 (and other jams). These sessions are indeed hard to find; search on YouTube for best results. Once there, you will find prominent Québécois musicians playing in fast-paced sessions. Conversation is in French, and the tunes move along at a brisk pace. The sound quality is good enough that playing along is satisfying. So is simply listening.

[Sue is Co-chair of the PCDC Board.]



Photo by David Keifer



# Board Meeting Summaries

Submitted by Ric Goldman

**July 21, 2020.** Present: Christine Appleberry, Victor Fiore, Ric Goldman, Noah Grunzweig, David Macemon, Sara Munz, Sue Songer, Mark Swan and guests Patricia Donohue and Kathy Story.

General: Patricia Donohue joined the board as the new Northwest Passage Committee representative.

Co-chair: More than a third of PCDC members participated in the annual general meeting, which was held online this year; board members were (re)elected. Thank you letters for outstanding donations have been sent out. A first draft of the new dancer behavior flowchart and PCDC policies has been distributed to the board for review and feedback. Questions have been sent to Bill Tomczak regarding his offer to serve as PCDC webmaster; responses are being reviewed. Ric continues to build the PCDC archives and has sent "shared folder" invites to committee contacts to test using Dropbox.

Treasurer: Jody has access to the new multi-user QuickBooks account and will query activity treasurers to determine what issues they have with existing processes. Afterwards she will migrate PCDC to the account and set up training. We want to have the current QuickBooks caught up to June 2020 as a starting point for migration, and so we can close the books on FY19 (which ended 5/31/20) for the accountant.

Hillsboro Contra: The committee received a \$200 donation and requested a donation acknowledgement letter.

Portland Contra: We have had two successful "Portland Live" online concerts (June with Campaign for Reel Time, July with Joyride) with attendance around 200 for each session. We are looking at new locations and bands for future dates. Some sessions will be at Fulton. Big thank you to Kim & Christine Appleberry, William Watson and John Oorthuys for getting the sound right. It was an amazing production effort. Thanks also to everyone behind the scenes. Joyride will donate some proceeds back to PCDC.

ECD: English Country dances are cancelled through the end of the year. The ECD Ball offered full compensation to performers for the cancelled event. Only some took it. Thank you letters for donations were sent out.

Northwest Passage: The committee plans to meet in January of 2021.

Family Dance: No activities are planned through the end of the year. We're watching what Portland Contra does.

Membership: Count is up by 1 compared to the previous month, but down 24 from this time last year.

Website: After a long discussion of website issues, features, technologies, roles and ideas going forward, the board decided not to accept Bill Tomczak's offer to become the PCDC webmaster.

Black Lives Matter: Noah gave a report on activities going on in the community to support this movement. The board discussed possible ways PCDC or its members might participate.

**August 18, 2020.** Present: Christine Appleberry, Patricia Donohue, Victor Fiore, Ric Goldman, David Macemon, Sara Munz, Sue Songer, Mark Swan and guest Kathy Story.

Treasurer: Jody Odowick resigned as treasurer due to work conflicts. David will act as interim treasurer. We continue to work to get all QuickBooks data entries current through May 31, 2020 (end of FY19). Our goal is to be completely current by Oct 15, 2020 to avoid having to file for an extension. Migration to the new multi-user QuickBooks account will wait until we are current.

Portland Contra: August's "Portland Live" was well attended. Kim Appleberry put in an incredible effort and the sound was much improved. The music was amazing and the band chats were a wonderful addition. September's concert will feature Countercurrent. Revised attendance for the concerts: June, 160; July, 250; August, 200. A total of \$4400 was generated for the performers. Special thank you to John Oorthuys for donating his sound wizardry.

Family Dance: No dances, but the committee needs a new board representative and committee organizer.

Raindance: We do not currently expect a 2021 event. Working on carrying staff over to 2022.

Membership: Counts are down 10 compared to previous month and down 24 from this time last year.

COVID Compensation: The board decided to offer the equivalent of guaranteed minimum compensation to musicians, callers and sound engineers booked in dance series that were cancelled due to COVID-19 up to a maximum outlay of \$13,000.

Dancer Behavior Issues: The board continues reviewing proposed policies and procedures to address behavior issues when they occur at dances. Proposals include documenting the details of such occurrences when they happen, having guidelines of what to do when, and coming up with ways to make this clear to dancers old and new. Feedback from activity committees is being sought as well. Once we have a defined process, we will put together a training plan.

PCDC Facebook group: The board discussed concerns over non-dance political posts on our Facebook group page. It was suggested that PCDC allow links to other groups, but restrict/reduce the amount of non-dance political content on the page itself. This is still under consideration and the board will reach out to the Facebook group admins and others.

Marketing: We are moving forward on drafting our outreach tri-fold welcome brochure to introduce PCDC to folks not already part of the dance community. David will produce the paper version and Ric will put together an equivalent web page.

[Next board meetings: 9/15 & 10/20 via Zoom.]



# Spotlight on PCDC Volunteers

*Submitted by Christine Appleberry, Co-chair of the PCDC Board*

In this issue: Noah Grunzweig. “I came to Portland from Jonesborough, Tennessee as kind of a blind roll of the dice. I was advising and mentoring middle and high school students, failing to do creative work, and needed a change. So, I told my friends and dance community I was moving. They started asking where. So, I rattled off the names of several cities. No one seemed to hear anything but Portland, so I was like, ok, Portland it is. And then they started asking “When?” So, I picked a date, and people started throwing parties. So, I felt like I couldn’t NOT leave. And I did. It’s absurd, but that was how I came to live in Portland.

“I was already a contra dancer and caller, so when I arrived in Portland, I looked for the local dance. When I saw a woman in a tie-dyed dress entering a building that looked like an old gym, I knew I’d found the tribe.

“At that first Portland dance, I ran into my friend and most recent ex from TN, which was kind of serendipity. I also met Kim and Christine Appleberry. They offered to find me a new girlfriend, a place to live and a job, so I was like, seems like I came to the right place!

“I’m not sure if it was Kim or Tina Tau, the chair of the Contra Committee at the time, who asked me to volunteer, but someone did, and I sometimes like to drift where I am asked to. So, I joined in March 2014 and am currently on the PCDC Board.

“For me, volunteering is a great way to meet people, deepen relationships and collaboratively create or maintain culture. Also, for a long time, it was something I thought gave me value as a person: to support others having access to a safe place to have fun. That is no longer the case, but I do still see organizing and volunteering as a co-creative activity I enjoy participating in.

“While on the Contra Committee, I met Megan Emerson who was very focused on creating gender-free spaces to more wholly bring queer and non-binary folks into belonging in our dances. Many of the queer, poly, and non-binary identifying folks in our community kept asking those of us who organized for spaces to be more inclusive of their lived experience. Round that time, I also met Eric Singer, and, at the suggestion of a few folks, he and I started a monthly alternative music contra dance – which is now organized by Jaydra Perfetti and I, known as PDX Remix ([www.contraremix.com](http://www.contraremix.com)). When Eric and I ran the dance, our dances were not much different than regular dances – save the obvious music difference. Eric and I separated as our visions of what to do with the dance diverged. Voices for a different cultural space were growing, and the broader dance community was slower to consider making changes, so Jaydra, myself and Mike Goren (w/ nudging from Megan and others) decided, why not? Culture is a co-created experience, even when you are participating passively, so why change as much and as often as is needed until we get to where we all want to be?

“So, PDX Remix became a space with more explicit consent culture and community agreements, where we checked in regularly with the dancers in attendance about what values we shared in our dance space and what we wanted to expect or ask of each other. As we were a comparatively smaller group of organizers and dancers, we could bring proposals to our dances, ask for feedback and vote on specific cultural agreements and values we all committed to as part of admission to the dance. We were going to start talking about live music and racial justice this year... and then Covid...and George Floyd...and the beginning of the most recent upwelling of BLM.

“Now that we are not dancing, PDX ReMix is on pause. I know some folks are engaged in activism, social justice work, and discussion groups. Others are trying to return to a sense of normal. I am sure folks are everywhere in between. The national contra dance community holds regular contra dance music concerts via Zoom and PCDC hosts a concert and group chat on the third Sunday of each month – Portland Live. I have not attended any since Folklife.

“I am currently dancing in my office by myself, writing letters and offering public testimony to city council, our state legislators, etc, trying to encourage more contextualized voices to public conversations and policy considerations. I’m also doing what I can to support friends and our community members who I know are engaged in protests. I am drawn most to promoting opportunities for individuals to amplify their voices politically. In many ways, I am engaging similarly to when we could all dance. Co-creative culture building.

“Contra dance has always been one of the ways in which I have seen and felt how we can all shape our existence together, small though it may be. But for me, now is not a time for focusing on dance but rather a time to focus on fixing our world. And, if any of you can manage to sew these two things together, I would be stoked.”



# Virtual English Dancing

By David Macemon

Have you tried any of the online English country dancing? I know there are many in our community who have been dancing with groups from around the country. I just started in the last couple of weeks. Here is a sampling of what I've experienced.

- Dancers from all around dancing alone (or as couples depending on the household), as part of a bigger event. And it works!
- Most virtual dance organizers provide an opportunity for participants to chat during a break, very much like we do when we take our break in the real world. It's a nice way to meet new people, and stumble across people you may know.
- Depending on the event, dancing is either to recorded music, or live music. (How I have missed live music!)
- The dances are on Zoom. Some people dance, some people enjoy listening; some have their cameras on, others do not.
- Some events require advance sign-up via mailing list, others you can just "show up for."
- There will be a "tip box" where you can choose to leave whatever amount you wish to support the dance and performers. The tip box is often PayPal.

Here's a partial list of English dances that are happening virtually. I know there are others, but these were the easy ones to find.



- 2nd & 4th Mondays: all-ECD [Atlanta DistDance](#), 4:30-6 pm (PDT). Music for the majority of these dances by Reelplay (Dave Marcus on concertina, Robbin Marcus on piano). And, every Friday: mixed ECD and contra, 4:30-6 pm (PDT) with music by Reelplay and others. Zoom link for both events at: <http://contradance.link/ATLDistDance>. For more information contact [dmarcus123@gmail.com](mailto:dmarcus123@gmail.com).
- Wednesdays: ECD from the [Folklore Society of Greater Washington](#) (DC), 5-7 pm (PDT) with time for chatting before (4:40 pm) and after. Recorded music, live caller. Contact [ecd@fsgw.org](mailto:ecd@fsgw.org) to get on the mailing list and receive the Zoom invite.
- Thursdays: ECD from Victoria, BC, starting at 8 pm (PDT). Contact Rosemary Lach ([rosemaryklach@shaw.ca](mailto:rosemaryklach@shaw.ca)) for details and Zoom link.
- Fridays: ECD from the [Toronto ECD Assembly](#). For more information contact [info@tecda.ca](mailto:info@tecda.ca).
- Odd (1st, 3rd and 5th) Sundays ECD with callers Sharon Green and Kalia Kliban; recorded music. Free, but donations to the [Bay Area Country Dance Society](#) are welcome. Contact [sharon@bacds.org](mailto:sharon@bacds.org) for sign-in information.

Hope to see you (via Zoom) at a dance real soon!

[David Macemon is a member of the PCDC Board, the English Dance Committee and the Family Dance Committee. He is also Chair of the English Country Ball Committee.]



Pictured at right is the 2019 Portland Peninsula Park Rose Garden Flash Waltz, an annual event organized by Will Simpson. The event did not take place this year due to you-know-what, but we hope to dance and play again among the roses in 2021.



## Public Service Announcement

Remember these? They are earrings. They go through a little hole in your earlobe (or wherever). If you haven't put any on in a while, it is advisable to do so intermittently, lest the little holes close up and leave you with a pair of intact earlobes. Don't let this happen to you!



### PCDC Board Members

Co-Chair/Raindance Rep: Christine Appleberry  
(ceappleberry at yahoo.com)

Co-Chair: Sue Songer (songer at portcoll.com)

Treasurer: Open  
(board-treasurer at portlandcountrydance.org)

Secretary: Ric Goldman (letsdance at rgoldman.org)

At-Large: Noah Grunzweig (grunzwei at gmail.com)

Portland Contra Committee Rep: Mark Swan  
(mark.swan.portland at gmail.com)

English Country Dance Committee Rep: Sara Munz  
(sara.v.munz at gmail.com)

Hillsboro Rep: Victor Fiore (victor.n.fiore at gmail.com)

Family Dance Coordinator: David Macemon  
(macedmondavid at gmail.com)

NWP Rep: Patricia Donohue (patricia at mwg.org)

Board Email: board at portlandcountrydance.org

### Major PCDC Volunteers

Contra Committee Chair: Kathy Story  
(kathystoryconsulting at gmail.com)

English Country Dance Committee Chair: Susan Gere  
(susangere at gmail.com)

Contra dance talent booker: Gordy Euler  
(euleromi at pacifier.com)

English dance caller booker: Erik Weberg  
(erik at erikweberg.com)

English dance music booker: Laura Kuhlman  
(shawm1550 at gmail.com)

Raindance Committee Chair: Kim Appleberry  
(pdxapple at comcast.net)

Northwest Passage Committee Chair: Ethel Gullette  
(effieg47 at gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Laurel Thomas  
(laureland3 at yahoo.com)

## Event Calendar • Fall 20\*\*

Sept.

Date	Platform	Band
Sunday, 9/20	Zoom & YouTube	Countercurrent



**Portland Country  
Dance Community**

### About PCDC

**Portland Country Dance Community** (PCDC) is a consortium of dancers, musicians and callers promoting country dance and music traditions through regular dances, workshops and other events. Everyone is welcome. Our interests include American, English, Scandinavian, Celtic, and related traditions, expressed through live performance and participation. With this newsletter we hope to exchange information and share concerns about traditional music and dance.

**Membership** in PCDC is \$15 per year for individuals, \$12 for students and seniors (65+), \$25 for households and \$20 for senior households. Membership provides a subscription to the newsletter, either by regular mail or electronically, and eligibility for PCDC grants. Donations in excess of membership fees are tax deductible. Please send membership renewals to: PCDC Membership, 3648 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy. #10, Portland, OR 97221. PCDC is an educational non-profit corporation and an affiliate of the Country Dance and Song Society (CDSS), a national organization headquartered in MA.

The **PCDC Board** is an elected body of volunteers from the community. Board meetings are held approximately monthly. Community members are welcome to attend. Help, ideas and feedback from the community, in whatever form, is necessary to make PCDC events happen. Your contributions of time and support are appreciated. Contact any board member for further information via email or write to PCDC at: PO Box 2189, Portland, OR 97208-2189.

This newsletter, *Footnotes*, is published every other month beginning with the January-February issue. Dance-related announcements, events, articles or photos are welcome and can be submitted to the editor at: Laureland3 at yahoo.com. The information provided herein is as accurate as possible, however last minute changes and/or cancellations may not be reflected. Check the online version of *Footnotes* and the PCDC website for more up-to-date information. We encourage the submission of letters and articles that might be of interest to the community. All such materials become the property of *Footnotes* upon submission and may be edited. The copy **DEADLINE** for any given issue is the 12th of the previous month. E.g. the deadline for the Jan-Feb issue is Dec. 12. **Please note that Footnotes will be online only while dancing is on hiatus.**