

Singing Call Techniques

GSI Caller School



SINGING CALL TECHNIQUES





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- The Singing Call is the “carrot”. It’s the prize after performance.
- Should try and use calls that keep as many people dancing as you can, i.e., Big Calls – 8 Chain Thru, Grand Square, Relay the Ducey.
- Singing Calls = Showmanship.
- Choose choreography to compliment the structure of the music.
- Listen to how the original recording artist and caller does the song. Phrasing can often be changed. And don’t be afraid to emulate the recording caller. It’s OK.
- It’s easy to get lazy.
- Singing calls have become less important – longer patters and some pretty cool patter music. Don’t let your singing call become anti-climatic when you program your dance.
- Singing through the commands

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- Provides contrast to patter and workshop
- Projects warmth and friendliness
- Provides program balance
- Sets the mood of a dance by use of music
- Creates excitement or can quiet the floor
- Relaxing change of pace
- Enhances showmanship

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Generally, today's singing calls are formatted as:

- Intro 4, 8, or 16 beats
- Opener / 64 beats / no partner changing
- Figure 1 / 64 beats / partner changing
- Figure 2 / 64 beats / partner changing
- Middle break / 64 beats / no partner changing
- Figure 3 / 64 beats / partner changing
- Figure 4 / 64 beats / partner changing
- Closer / 64 beats / no partner changing
- Tag / 4, 8, or 16 beats

Use a singing call with a non-standard structure occasionally.



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- Figures generally Heads/Heads/Sides/Sides
 - a) OK to mix it up - H/S/S/H. Don't do H/S/H/S - causes original Head Ladies doing all the initial action
 - b) Corner or RH lady progression. Don't mix.
 - c) 16 beat promenade – Start in Boy's home quadrant.
 - d) Consider employing some patter calling techniques as a means of expanding your singing calling skills.
- Let the music work for you even if you sing great.
- Check timing of provided figures and the ones you create. Use CALLERLAB timing chart.
- Make sure you are giving the commands correctly as far as the timing.
- Practice – Doing a song fresh out of the box can be a disaster.



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Understand your music when selecting records

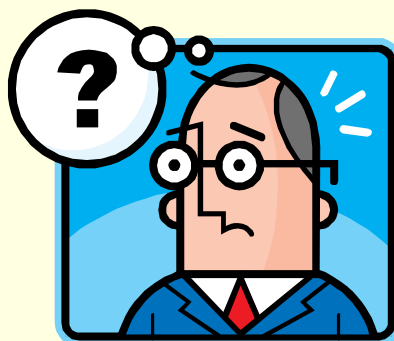
CJC 509 - Beautiful Noise	Music / Tag
EGO 109 - Don't Stop Believing	Music almost exactly like Journey
CREST 110 - Suzie Q	Music way BETTER than CCR
KLX 1112 - Grand Colonel Spin	Classic / Non standard structure
RB 3102 - This Little Light of Mine	Long Intro
RH 508 - Eight Days A Week	Long Tag
RYL 150 - American Pie	Long Intro / Good Sing A Long
RYL 182 - Mockingbird	Non-standard background Vocals
RYL 704 - Free Ride	Abused command giving
TOP 25084 - Running Bear	Classic / Tough choreography
AEGO 201 - Hallelujah	Let the music win

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QUESTIONS



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ANSWERS