

CREATING SMOOTH FLOWING CHOREOGRAPHY

By
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LESSON #4

How to create Choreography that will Flow Smoothly.

Although the Tempo of the Music, and the Timing of the Call Placement, greatly affects the smoothness and continuous motion of the Dance you have created, there are other elements which also help with accomplishing this.

Knowing what Calls Not to Call is as important as knowing what to Call.

Building your Tip:

Planning your Tip, think of how do you want to Open, and what Calls would you want to use. Next plan the body of the Tip, do you want to feature one or two specific Calls, or just call what pops into your mind. (planning specific Calls is better). Do you want to have a middle section of something easy such as Grand Square, and the second figure feature Call, and a Closer. Remember at Basic Mainstream about a six minute Tip is good.

Your Plan might look something like this.

Example:

Opener: Girls Backtrack.

Body #1: Chain Down The Line.

Mid Break: Grand Square.

Body #2: Circulates.

Closer: Allemande Thar Star.

Notes for Chain Down The Line.

On the Call "**Chain Down The Line**" we can find that from a Zero Box or 8 Chain Thru Box we can Call, **Swing Thru / Boys Run / Chain Down The Line / Star Thru**" we are back in a Zero Box and could Call, **Allemande Left**. Looking closer at this little Zero with body flow in mind, we can see that following the *Courtesy turn of the Chain Down The Line, the Ladies Left Hand is in her partners Left Hand, which she has to get free and ready to use again for the Star Thru, then ready again for the Allemande Left.* That makes this little Zero Danceable but with poor body flow. If you were teaching this Call for the first time, it might be usable because teaching is a stop and go situation. However, I would Not Use this Zero.

OPENING FIGURE:

Bow to the Partner / Bow to the Corner,

Circle Left,

Circle Right,

Go Single File,

Girls: Backtrack, "*meet your Partner*"

Do Si Do,

Four Boys Star Left,

Turn Partner By The Right Arm,

Allemande Left,

Right & Left Grand,

Swing your Partner,

Promenade, Home.

Fig. #1. (Zero Box)

Right & Left Thru,

Veer Left,

Couples Circulate,

Chain Down The Line,

Flutterwheel, / Sweep ¼,

Swing Thru, / Boy Run,

Couples Circulate,

Chain Down The Line,

Lines: Fwd & Back,

Star Thru,

Dive Thru,

Square Thru ¾,

Allemande Left.

Should be at Home.

Fig. #2. (Zero Box)

Right & Left Thru,
Veer Left,
Couples Circulate,
Chain Down The Line,
Flutterwheel / Sweep ¼,
Swing Thru / Boy Run,
Couples Circulate,
Chain Down The Line,
Lines: Fwd & Back,
Star Thru,
Dive Thru,
Square Thru 3/4,
Allemande Left.
Should be at Home.

Middle Break:

Sides Face: Grand Square
4 Ladies Chain across
4 Ladies Chain Back Home,
Promenade.

Fig. #3: Feature Circulates.

Heads: Lead Right,
Do Si Do to a Wave,
Swing Thru,
Girls Circulate Once,
Boys Circulate Once,
Boy Run,
Couples Circulate Once,
Bend The Line / Pass Thru,
Bend The Line,
Pass The Ocean / Ladies Trade,
Boys Circulate Once
Swing Thru,
Girls Circulate Once,
Boy Run,
Couples Circulate Once,
Couples Trade, in your own Line,
Couples Circulate Once,
Couples Circulate Once and a Half,
Bend The Line ,
Should be Home.

Fig. #4: Circulates.

Heads: Lead Right,
Circle to a Line,
Touch ¼,
All 8 Circulate,
Boys Run,
Touch 1/4,
Split Circulate,
Boy Run,
Pass Thru,
Wheel & Deal,
Pass Thru,
Allemande Left.

Closer:SS.

Allemande Left,
Allemande Thar,
Shoot The Star,
forward two make another Allemande Thar Star,
Shoot this Star,
Right & Left Grand,
Promenade,Home.

What did we learn from these Figures?

In Fig. 1. We see the **Couples Circulate** following the **Veer Left** gives a forward flow, leading into the **Chain Down the Line**, the **Flutterwheel** keeps the flow in motion as does the **Sweep** ¼ into the **Swing Thru / Boys Run / Couples Circulate**, and as above leads smoothly into the **Chain Down The Line**, here we use **Forward & Back** to give the **Ladies** a chance to get the **Left Hand** free for the **Star Thru**, the rest is a given get out.

If your **Call timing is good, and you watch the dancers closely, this Choreo is very smooth.**

In Fig. #3. We have the **Heads Lead Right** to a **Do Si Do**, which makes this a little tricky because most Dancers will want to Circle to a Line, this little change will check them up short, if your timing is good. You could also say “**Heads Lead Right Don’t Circle**” but do not make this a habit they can figure it out quick enough.

We See in this Fig. we use “**Girls Circulate, Boys Circulate, Couples Circulate and Half Circulate** to Home.

In Fig. #4. We use “All 8 Circulate” from Columns, you can also say “Single File Circulate”, If you have doubts on this check out Callerlab. **Basic Mainstream Definitions # 21 a, b, c, d, etc.** When we get to where we change the Column to an 8 Chain Thru Formation , we Call “**Touch 1/4 / Split Circulate**”, this is one of the easier positions to Call, **Split Circulate** from, and you and your Dancers should be successful.

Your Homework:

1. Plan a Tip.
2. Feature at least 2 Calls from the Basic Mainstream List you want to include in the Tip,
3. Build at least two figures for each Call in your Plan.
4. Build Opening, Middle and Closing Figures, remember you are Relaxing your Dancers with these.
5. Make sure your Choreography flows from Call to Call.
6. Resolve the Square either to an Allemande Left or to Home Position.
7. Keep your original copy for future use.
8. You may email me a copy of your Plan and Choreo. I will check it over, comment and send it back to you.

Email to : caller.adams@gmail.com < **click here.**

This is the end of Lesson Four