

A CALLERS GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING ROUND DANCE PHASE LEVELS.

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You have six sets on the floor, the atmosphere in the hall is electric and you were able to use that module with seventy two movements totally from memory that resolved the square without the dancers realising it. In short everything is perfect. Then the cuer steps up and says “Can I try this phase 3 Cha I have been working on? I’m sure everyone will like it.”

Anyone who has run a club has probably been in a similar sort of position. All sorts of things start going through the mind. Will it kill the atmosphere? Will most dancers sit out? What the @#! is a phase 3 Cha anyway? All of these are valid points, the trouble is there are a lot a Callers who can only guess at the first two and have no idea at the answer to the last one.

Any sort of alternate activity on a dance night whether it be Rounds, Lines, Clogging or what-ever needs to compliment the program you have for the night. For you to make that decision, there must be some understanding of the material being put forward. What I have tried to put together here is a brief layout of some of the terms used to describe the Round Dance material and difficulty level. This includes a cross reference between common terms and the Roundalab Phasings. I have also included a list of questions that you might like to put to the Cuer to help make an informed decision.

EASY LEVEL - dances that the average Square Dancer who has done a few Rounds before will have no real trouble in handling. It may contain a small quirky bit in the middle but it really won’t affect the enjoyment of the dance.

INTERMEDIATE - Square Dancers who have been around for awhile and are extremely confident in handling the Easy Level will find these enjoyable. It will possibly have something in it that turns some of the floor to find that other couple they have been trying to see all night and form a social group in the corner. (mental note - don’t use these ones just before announcements) It may also include rhythms that have been around for a while now eg Cha and Rumba

ADVANCED - these are the ones the budding Astair/Rogers combination keep on trying to suggest, to show what they learned in their last Round Dance class. The Round Dance class is where these ones should stay.

	EASY	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
RHYTHM	ROUNDALAB PHASE LEVEL		
TWO STEP	2 OR 3		
WALTZ	2 OR 3*	3	4-6
RUMBA		3	4-6
CHA CHA		3	4-6
FOXTROT		3#	4-6
JIVE			3-6
OTHERS			3-6

SEE NOTES ON THE NEXT PAGE.

* If the dance is on the National Convention list as a phase 3 Waltz, then most of the dancers should have no real problems as a general rule.

Phase 3 foxtrot will normally be handled by those who handle phase 3 Waltz as the movements are pretty much the same. The other attraction is the music at this level is a little more up tempo and may lend itself to add to the atmosphere of the night.

Questions for the Cuer:

1. Does this dance have figures from the next phase level? eg Is it a phase 3+1 Cha?
2. Does this dance need something walked through?
3. Does this dance have many modified movements? -some would suggest **any** modified movements
4. Is this the first time you have tried this dance on a crowd?

If the answer is Yes to **ANY** of these questions then personally I would ask the Cuer to perhaps try something else. Consideration should be given to the Cuer's experience, understanding of the people on the floor, or their married relation to yourself, but you probably risk deflating that feeling in the hall you worked hard to pump up in the beginning.

This is how understanding the way Round dances are phased can help make that decision so much easier to make. Just as Square Dance levels have been defined by Callerlab, Roundalab has set levels to determine the complexity of a dance without having to fully know the movements. Ask the Cuer "is it a straight phase 3 or is it a 3 +1 or 3 + 2" The + indicates the number movements from the next level up (a maximum of + 2 or the danced is phased at the next level).

Hopefully this has helped make understanding the Round Dance phasing a little easier.

Yours in dancing
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