

BVB Introduction to Playing for Dancing

- **We have produced a list of simple dances, with dance instructions and appropriate tunes. Aim to simplify gig planning and enable different people to try calling.**
- **Dances usually require 32 bar or 48 bar tunes. Some dances have their own specific tune eg. Whimble Wassail, Enrico.**
- **Introduction is important as sets the speed for the band and dancers and tells dancers when to start. Usually 4 bars.**
- **Usually two tunes used for a dance set to stop the band getting bored and the change to a different tune 'lifts' the dancers. The tunes run one into the other without a gap. It is important that the change between tunes is smooth and that the speed of the dance doesn't alter. Practice the changes with a metronome.**
- **As a general rule the first tune will be played 3 times and the second tune will be played until the caller signals to stop.**
- **How time signatures work with the dance. Generally two dance steps per bar. Accent on the beat as the dancers foot comes down and try to keep the off beats light to lift the dancers into the air.**
- **Keep tune arrangements simple for dancing. Everyone play all the time on whatever part they feel most comfortable (but make sure there is plenty of melody and a good rhythmic pulse.)**
- **Band members need to be prepared to get up and dance at gigs to encouraged members of the public to join in.**