

MINNESOTA

DANCING TIMES



A publication of the Minnesota Chapter 2011 of USA Dance

November 2011



Another Magnificent Minnesota Madness!

Inside this month's issue...

MN Dancers Compete Nationwide! Photos, Danceland, and More!

Join us for the USADance

November Monthly Dance

Volunteer Appreciation
& Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 19th

7-8 pm Samba Lesson

Instructor: Shane Meuwissen

8-11 pm Variety Dance

Music DJ: Pete & Joyce

\$7 USADance members ■ \$10 non-members

(Become a USA Dance-MN member tonight and get in free!)

Hotline: (651) 483-5467

Email: info@usadance-mn.org

Web: www.usadance-mn.org

Cinema Ballroom

1560 St. Clair Ave

St. Paul, MN 55105

USA Dance MN HOTLINE

(651) 483-5467

www.usadance-mn.org

Call for information on dance events.
Leave a message for membership information.

Dancers Night Out

Fri 11/4 Cinema Ballroom: Variety Dance; lesson at 7, dance 8-11; 1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul; call 651-699-5910 or visit www.cinemaballroom.com

Fri 11/4 Medina Entertainment Center: Jerry O'Hagen, Big Band / Variety / Swing; lesson at 7:30, dance at 8:30; \$12 adults; 500 Hwy 55, Medina; call 763-478-6661 or visit www.medinaentertainment.com

Sat 11/5 Tropical Ballroom Dance Party; Ballroom, Swing, Latin variety; lesson at 7:30, dance 8:30-11; \$10; call 651-414-0644 or visit www.tropicalballroom.com

Mon 11/7 Four Seasons Dance Studio: Rhythm Junction Monday Night Swing Dance; 8-12; \$5; 1637 Hennepin Ave S, Mpls; call 612-342-0902 or visit www.4seasonsdance.com

Sat 11/12 Tropical Ballroom: Café Bailar Dance Club; lesson at 7:30, dance 8:30-11; \$10, \$8 for C.B. members; call 651-414-0644 or visit www.tropicalballroom.com

Sat 11/12 Medina Entertainment Center: Whitesidewalls, '50s-'60s; lesson at 7:30, dance at 8:30; \$12; 500 Hwy 55, Medina; call 763-478-6661 or visit www.medinaentertainment.com

Mon 11/14 Four Seasons Dance Studio: Rhythm Junction Monday Night Swing Dance; 8-12; \$5; 1637 Hennepin Ave S, Mpls; call 612-342-0902 or visit www.4seasonsdance.com

Fri 11/18 Cinema Ballroom: Variety Dance; lesson at 7, dance 8-11; 1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul; call 651-699-5910 or visit www.cinemaballroom.com

Sat 11/19 Aqua Gliders Dance Club Party; Samba lesson at 7:30, dance 8:45-11; \$25 per couple (non-members); 7540 Penn Avenue S, Richfield; Call 612 869 3062

Sat 11/19 Tropical Ballroom Dance Party; music by Pizzazz Jazz Band; lesson at 7:30, dance 8:30-11; \$10 (\$7 members); call 651-414-0644 or visit www.tropicalballroom.com

Mon 11/21 Four Seasons Dance Studio: Rhythm Junction Monday Night Swing Dance; 8-12; \$5; 1637 Hennepin Ave S, Mpls; call 612-342-0902 or visit www.4seasonsdance.com

Fri 11/25 Cinema Ballroom: Salsa Fusion; lesson at 7, dance 8-11; 1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul; call 651-699-5910 or visit www.cinemaballroom.com

Sat 11/26 Tropical Ballroom: Stillwater Cotillion Dance Club; lesson at 7:30, dance 8-11; \$10; dress to impress; call 651-414-0644 or visit www.tropicalballroom.com

Sat 11/26 Medina Entertainment Center: Rockin' Hollywoods; '50s-'80s; lesson at 7:30, dance at 8:30; costume contest; \$12; 500 Hwy 55, Medina; call 763-478-6661 or visit www.medinaentertainment.com

Mon 11/28 Four Seasons Dance Studio: Rhythm Junction Monday Night Swing Dance; 8-12; \$5; 1637 Hennepin Ave S, Mpls; call 612-342-0902 or visit www.4seasonsdance.com

Sat 12/17 USA Dance Ballroom Dance Party - Retro Ballroom - St. Louis Park - Variety Dance

Sat 1/21 USA Dance Ballroom Dance Party - Dance with Us America - Edina - Variety Dance

American Classic Ballroom.....(952) 934-0900
www.americanclassicroom.com, 550 Market St., Chanhassen, MN 55317 (494 west to Hwy 5, right on Market Blvd, right on Market St.)

Arthur Murray Dance Studio.....(651) 227-3200
534 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, MN. Salsa for beginners and advanced on Wednesday 8:15 pm/\$15. Date Night variety class for beginners on Friday 6:45 pm/\$25/couple.

Black Dog Cafe & Wine Bar.....(651) 228-9274
308 Prince Street, St. Paul Argentine Tango night every 3rd Saturday. Lesson at 7:30 pm, dance from 8-11 pm/\$3.

Blue Moon Ballroom.....(507) 288-0556
www.BlueMoonBallroom.net 2030 Hwy 14, East Rochester, MN; Fridays: Latin Night, 7:30 pm - 12:30 am; Saturdays: Live Bands!



More photos from October's dance on page 20!

USA Dance – MN Chapter #2011 Board Minutes

Tuesday, October 14, 2011

Submitted by Cathy Dessert

In attendance: Sue Zeller (President), Cathy Dessert (Vice President), Jane Phipps (Treasurer), Corissa Ranum, Zhiojing Liu, Mike Jones, Yeun Chou, Julie Elholm

Location: Quixotic Coffee, 769 Cleveland Avenue South St. Paul, MN

Call to Order:

- 1) Quorum established
- 2) Agenda approved

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS:

3) Treasurer's Report: Jane has transferred and consolidated all information and accounts from Craig. We have 2 checking accounts, which will be consolidated into one. Our balance is current.

4) USA Dance District 2 Meeting: Corissa will be competing in Chicago, where the meeting will be held, and has graciously offered to attend and represent our Chapter as time permits. Sue gave Corissa information regarding the meetings.

PROJECTS:

5) Monthly Dances: Sue discussed the need to expand and establish this committee as operating with people who are not Board members, akin to the Newsletter Committee. People would be invited by members of the Board to join. A motion was made and seconded to allow a current member free entry to the dance if the member brings someone who signs up to become a USA Dance member, and that person will also get in free.

6) Marketing Committee: There is a need to establish this type of committee both for the Chapter and for Star of the North. Individuals with marketing experience highly desired. Corissa will seek out a U of M student, possibly in need of experience in this area.

7) MN Madness: October 22, 2011 The U of M Ballroom Club missed a deadline for a grant and needs money to compete. \$750 scholarship was granted. Discussion prompted raising additional monies for youth. Yeun is available to lead this effort. Tabled as an agenda item for November.

8) Mall of America Demo: The demo is changed to November 1, 2011. Consequently, we need to move the Board meeting to November 8 so we can go and support our dancers.

9) Variety Dance Performance: Sue held discussions with several people regarding this topic. Feasibility in the form of a meeting to determine interest by the Chapter members may be held. Details to follow.

10) Dance Floor: The floor value is less than the cost to keep it. Mike Jones discussed an option whereby we could sell the floor and support the buyer in rental leads and offer advertising. Tabled until that viable buyer is found for further discussion.

11) Meeting adjourned.

USA Dance: Who Are We?

We are a non-profit organization formed to preserve and promote ballroom dancing, both as an art and a healthful sport. The Minnesota chapter, USA Dance MN, was formed in 1991.

Membership in USA Dance is open to dancers of all levels. There are several categories to choose from: Social, Competitor, Junior (17 and under), Collegiate, and Associate (professional/instructor).

USA Dance MN sponsors monthly dances and other special dance events. Members are entitled to discounts on admission to the monthly dances, as well as access to a great network for meeting other dancers.

As a member, you'll have fun dancing and meeting many new friends. For more information, call the USA Dance MN HOTLINE: 651-483-5467.

The Minnesota Dancing Times is published monthly by the members of the Minnesota Chapter of USA Dance, providing information and news of ballroom dancing to members and friends.

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Contributions: Articles submitted may be edited for length, clarity and content. Photos will be returned. Please provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope or send high quality jpgs to Anne LaTourelle.

Subscriptions: \$22/year. Make checks payable to USA Dance MN and send to Anne LaTourelle, 6130 Ives Lane, Plymouth, MN 55442. ■

Advertising

DISPLAY ADS: To advertise your event or professional service, submit a digital file (300 dpi pdf or jpeg format ONLY) or camera-ready artwork to Suzi Blumberg (email: suzi.b@usfamily.net phone: 612-869-4416) along with payment to USA Dance MN. Advertising for charge cards, insurance, or travel cannot be accepted. Ads can be typeset or designed for a small fee, contact Janie. Payment to accompany ad.

Full page	7.5" wide x 10" high \$130
Half page	7.5" wide x 4.75" high \$80
	OR 3.5" wide x 9.5" high
Qtr. page	3.5" wide x 4.75" high \$60
Business Card	3 consecutive months \$50

SWAPLINE ADS: Free 3-line ad in Swaplines available to subscribers (dance merchandise only). Send to: annelatourelle@comcast.net

DEADLINE FOR ALL MATERIALS:
10th OF EACH MONTH
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From the Editor

by Anne LaTourelle

This is my 2nd to the last issue as editor. I would like to take a moment to reflect on how I got to this place in the remaining two issues.

Back in June, 2001, Elaine Rybyski was leaving the Minnesota Dancing Times and moving out of state. Having once contemplated a job in writing, I was interested in getting involved with the newsletter but was afraid of taking on the whole project alone, especially as I was not comfortable with the layout portion of the task. Tom and I were competing at the Wisconsin State Dancesport competition with Janie and Andy Nordberg when the topic of the newsletter came up. Janie and I decided that maybe we could “divide and conquer” different tasks on the newsletter. Slowly the plan came together with others being added to the team: Yvonne Viehman, Betsy Phillips, Carol Post Stroick, Eileen Arcilla, and others. Dividing up the work became one of the secrets to our success. One person would handle ads, another would handle layout, and someone else would proofread; no one had to do it all. Through the years, members of the team would transition off the project, yet there was always someone to step up to join: Cathy Dessert, Mike Youngdahl, Greg Moore, Suzi Blumberg, Tom LaTourelle, Nic Westlake and, recently, Mary Beth Beckman.

Dividing up the work was not the only change we made to the newsletter. The concept of ongoing writers helped fill the space more easily, especially as we had doubled the newsletter size. These columns included: Dr. Dance, From the President, Gentlemen Lead, and From the Editor. Another change we made was establishing a monthly theme to potentially inspire people to write and give a focus to the issue. I’ve had some favorite themes through the years, including an issue about couples who had fallen in love on the dance floor and an issue regarding dancing inspirations and mentors.

The newsletter has become a well-oiled machine—something we are all proud of. ■

Demo News

Upcoming performance opportunities

- **Tues., 11/01: Mall of America Best Buy Rotunda**
(park/enter on east side of mall) - 7:30pm – 8:30pm
- **Sat, 11/19: VA Hospital, 1 Veterans Drive, Minneapolis** – 2:00pm – 2:30pm
- **Sun, 11/27: Southdale Mall by Macy’s on 1st floor**
1pm – 1:30pm and 2pm – 2:30pm
- **Sun, 12/04: Southdale Mall by Macy’s on 1st floor**
1pm – 1:30pm and 2pm – 2:30pm
- **Sun, 12/11: Rosedale Mall (location to be determined)**
1pm – 1:30pm and 2pm – 2:30pm

The President's Corner

Thanking USA Dance Minnesota Volunteers



This month we are starting out right with our dance performance at the Mall of America on the evening of Tuesday, November 1st. Dance demos are one of the best ways to promote ballroom dance. Although many people are aware of ballroom dancing through TV, they still need to know that there is a lot of dancing going on in the communities in which they live. There are many other dance demos this month and in the month of December,

also. Calling all dancers: please let us know if you and a partner want to be involved in dance demos. Please contact a board member or Yvonne Viehman, Dance Demo Chair.

My thanks to all of you who are demo dancers. It was a dance demo that I saw at the mall near where I lived that made me aware of USA Dance Minnesota and helped me get started. Other dancers gave me the encouragement that I needed to get started and find the right instructor. And as with many of you, dancing has enhanced my experience of life. My health is better also due to this great, fun exercise.

This month we are recognizing all USA Dance Minnesota volunteers at our monthly dance at Cinema Ballroom. Before and during the dance, we will be serving a light buffet dinner. All volunteers will get into the dance free on Saturday, November 19th. The USA Dance Minnesota Annual Meeting will be at 6 p.m., just before the dance lesson and dance. This is a very informal yet informative meeting to let anyone interested know more about what is going on with our chapter and what our plans are going forward. If you attend the Annual Meeting, you will also get into the dance free.

USA Dance Minnesota has a lot of volunteers on our committees: the Star of the North committee, the Dancing Times newsletter volunteer staff, the website committee, the dance demo committee, the monthly dance committee, the dance floor committee, the Tea Dance committee, the college and youth outreach committee, and our board of directors. It's my vision and dream that in 2012 this group of exceptional volunteers will expand and energize. Together, we will continue to carry out our mission to improve the quality and quantity of ballroom dance in Minnesota for years to come.

The Dancing Times newsletter is what we all have become dependent upon for what's going on in our dance community. We can count on the Dancing Times to be filled with

stories of dance, dance tips from professionals, and photography that captures some of the best dance moments. Every month, like clockwork, this special team gets into action, each volunteer doing his or her part of the newsletter work: requesting articles, writing articles, photography, obtaining advertising, editing, proofreading, graphic design, or layout. Without fail, this team creates an outstanding newsletter every month. Many thanks to our newsletter committee, writers, advertisers, and dance professionals.

Star of the North is another committee that does a tremendous amount of work—in their case, for a 3-day amateur dance competition. Planning for this event starts a year in advance. We are fortunate to have a group of volunteers with the expertise to bring multitudes of people together to dance the right dance at the right time to the right music, and the right judge to watch every move. This is a very special event that takes a tremendous amount of work and management.

Thank you Tea Dance, Dance Demo, Monthly Dance, Star of the North, Newsletter, and Board Volunteers! Happy dancing!

Sue Zeller ■

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Cheek to Cheek

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Holiday Potluck Dance

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www.cheektocheekdancestudio.com 763-755-3644

Minnesota Rocks the Carolina Fall Classic (USA Dance Regional)

By Jeremy Anderson, Anne LaTourelle, and Leland Whitney

Jeremy Anderson & Yuko Taniguchi

The weekend of October 7th-9th, Yuko Taniguchi and I competed at the Carolina Fall Classic. We danced well and managed to final in all our events (except Open Hustle!), with several notable finishes:

- 1st in Adult Bronze Standard (both Waltz/Quickstep and Tango/Foxtrot)
- 1st in Adult Novice Smooth
- 1st in Senior I Novice Smooth
- 1st in Adult Novice Rhythm
- 2nd in Open Argentine Tango
- 2nd in Championship Nine Dance

Like our first time at this competition, we enjoyed every minute of the event. Wayne and Marie Crowder put on an exceptional competition, which was well run and full of extra little touches that made it friendly and welcoming, including Wayne's mother bringing in her home-baked goods for the competitors to enjoy between heats! Having two other Minnesota couples there—Leland and Leslie Whitney and Tom and Anne LaTourelle—made our second time at Greensboro all the more enjoyable.

Tom & Anne LaTourelle:

Being able to compete at the North Carolina Fall Classic meant getting up at 3:45 a.m. to catch our non-direct flights. It proved to be worth the effort, as we got there in time for the Friday night "fun" dances (single dance events without any age or proficiency category—anyone can sign up). Tom and I love to dance lead/follow, and so we did with Bolero, Salsa, Hustle, West Coast Swing, American Viennese Waltz and International Viennese Waltz. We were kept busy making cuts (they were all quarter finals except American Viennese Waltz) until midnight. By the time we got to bed, we had been up for approximately 20 hours.

The next day we headed off to dance Champion Smooth Senior II and, later in the evening, Champion Smooth Senior I. The Senior I event had a fun "dance-on" where each finalist gets to dance 30 seconds of a dance solo. Tom and I drew the Foxtrot, which is our favorite smooth dance (okay, my favorite, anyway). We had a great time making new friends, chatting with old friends, and getting to know our fellow Minnesota couples a little better. The six of us could be heard yelling each other's numbers anytime our



Jeremy and Yuko



friends were on the floor (Jeremy was 256...still remember that).

All in all, our marks were favorable, with a fierce competition at the championship levels, with the top two couples from last year's nationals attending this event. Here are our results:

- Open Bolero – 1st place
- Open West Coast Swing – 1st place
- Open Salsa – 3rd place
- Open Hustle – 3rd place
- Open American Viennese Waltz – 2nd place
- Open International Viennese Waltz – 4th place
- Senior II Championship American Smooth – 4th place
- Senior I Championship American Smooth – 4th place

Leland & Leslie Whitney:

Leslie and I competed last weekend (October 7 - 9) at the Carolina Fall Classic in Greensboro, NC. We were delighted that two other amateur Minnesota couples were there as well: Jeremy Anderson and Yuko Taniguchi, and Tom and Anne LaTourelle. It is always a big plus to have friends to cheer each other on. My brother, Bob Whitney, a big

supporter of our dancing, lives nearby and attended the entire event from early morning to late evening.

The results for Leslie and me were:

1st place in all six Senior III events in which we competed:

- Novice Smooth
- Pre-Champ Smooth
- Silver Rhythm
- Gold Rhythm
- Silver Standard
- Gold Standard

2nd place in three Senior II events:

- Silver Rhythm
- Gold Rhythm
- Silver Standard

3rd place in Senior II Gold Standard

This is our third time competing in North Carolina. We plan to return annually to this delightful, heartwarming, and very competitive event, organized by Wayne and Marie Crowder. ■



Peter and Sehyun

Minnesota Competitors Head to Chicago Harvest Moon Ball

Local competitors Pete Westlake and Sehyun Oh had a great showing at the newly revamped Chicago Harvest Moon Ball. They won Novice and Pre-Champ Standard and placed 2nd in each of two scholarship dances, beating out several seasoned competitors. ■

The Production

On September 23rd and 24th, Cinema Ballroom in St. Paul hosted their 3rd annual Production. The Production, one of four dance events that the ballroom hosts throughout the year, was an opportunity for the Cinema Ballroom community of dancers to perform choreographed, theatrical Ballroom and Latin dances to songs of their choosing. The theme for this year's Production was "Broadway and Musicals," featuring songs from shows such as *Chicago*, *Annie*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Mamma Mia*, just to name a few. The Production showcased choreography from world-renowned judges and coaches Rufus Dustin and Stephen Knight as well as numbers choreographed by Cinema Ballroom instructors. The Production sold out both nights and received rave reviews from spectators! Check out video highlights from the show on Cinema Ballroom's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/cinemaballroom. ■

Dance Soup

Heads-up: In December, Tropical Ballroom will be moving their dance studio just down the hall in the same mall they're currently located in. For more info, please visit tropicalballroom.com.



Last month, we ran an article entitled "Cinema Ballroom Takes Top Honors at US Nationals."

While a photo was submitted to us, it didn't make it to publication, so we're running the photo this month. If you see these fabulous dancers or their teacher, Eric Hudson, congratulate them!



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Ballroom Dance Club 

presents

Masquerade Ball

Saturday December 3rd 7-11pm

\$12 for students

\$15 for non-students



North Star Ballroom

St. Paul Student Center, 2nd Floor

2017 Buford Ave, St Paul, MN

*Parking available in Gortner Ave Ramp
and along Cleveland Ave*

A Holiday Message Conveyed Through Dance

By Chris Trask



My dancing aspirations this year changed when I heard a song on my iPod while I was walking the track at the YMCA. "One, two, three. One, two, three," I counted aloud. This is a perfect Viennese Waltz. The song, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," sung by Christy Nockels, has the message I want to convey to the audience at the Cinema Ballroom Showcase, which will be held December 2nd and 3rd.

My dance instructor, Martin Pickering, suggested that we have Michelle Hudson create the routine. Michelle and Eric Hudson, along with Eileen Arcilla, have owned

Cinema Ballroom for almost seven years. Michelle's ten years of teaching include being a choreographer, as well.

"What was the first song and the most recent song you've choreographed?" I asked her.

With a twinkle in her eye, she replied, "My first song was, "Can I Have This Dance?" and the most recent song I did was a Foxtrot for the song, "Business of Love." Creating a dance for a song that students pick out allows me to continue building great relationships with my students and instructors."

"I am having fun with you and Martin."

With her headphones on, I experienced firsthand Michelle's talent for creating a beautiful dance routine for a song. She would occasionally grab my dance instructor, Martin, to try out the routine, and then she would go back to her notepad and jot down the timing.

"Alleluia, Alleluia. We'll do this move to emphasize it, Martin," she commented with enthusiasm.

Watching Michelle dance with her natural poise and grace while pregnant with her first child is quite a beautiful sight. She commented that she really loved the song and was moved by it.

The third week into practicing the routine, Martin and I danced the first half of the song together to the music. An older couple practicing on the floor nearby came up to me afterwards and commented on how beautiful the routine was and how inspired they were. With a smile on my face, I knew I was making progress.

Thank you, Martin, for being a patient teacher and for being my dance partner for the song.

Thank you, Michelle, for creating a routine that helped me convey how I feel about the importance of the season. I wish you and Eric much happiness with your first child.

I wish all you readers a wonderful holiday season. ■

A festive holiday-themed poster for a dance performance. The background is dark with white snowflakes. In the foreground, a man in a black suit is dancing with a woman in a blue sequined dress. Behind them, a group of women in red dresses and Santa hats are dancing. The text is overlaid on the image.

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Tickets: \$15 - \$19 • Group Discounts (10 or More): 612-240-5042

www.MinnesotaPerformDance.org

Photos by Sarah Cierrie & Neatshots
Design by Janie Nordberg



Grand Opening at Dance with Us America

By Emilia Kokoszka

On Sunday, October 2nd, Dance with Us America had a grand opening presented by Elena and Gene Bersten to celebrate the start of a new dance season. The opening started with an official cutting of a ribbon and was followed by an elaborate group performance by the students. They all danced together in an enchanting, classical Waltz and energetic, powerful Jive set by beautiful lighting and ornamentation that filled the studio. The sparkle and pizzazz of the students was mesmerizing to all. The entire production enticed the spectators, leaving them eager to see more.

Just before the students were going to show the competition routines that they had been preparing for several

months, there was a break for social dancing, refreshments, and sweets. After the break, students of all ages and levels were ready to come out to exhibit their very best Standard and Latin dancing to an audience of over 175 people. All the students danced fantastically and showcased great talent in the gorgeous new studio. The spectators displayed rowdy enthusiasm with their many cheers and never-ending claps. All of the students and teachers were delighted with the performances. The show closed on a fantastic speech by the studio owners and congratulations to the students.

After the performance, the students were delighted to learn that two local newspapers had come to watch the performance and would like to write about the successful opening. Everyone who attended that afternoon was delighted and excited to see the future talents of Minnesota. Congratulations to all of the students of Dance with Us America. ■



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Danceland

Chapter Eleven

By Lester Martin

Foxtrot wasn't going well.

The figures alone were baffling. The people who conceived of them must have been danger junkies. Why else were we always changing directions and jumping in front of each other? One second we were stepping boldly between our partners' legs, and the next we were sneaking around them on the outside. And these risky maneuvers had to be accomplished without the aid of verbal warnings like "Crossing to your right!" or "Outside partner!" Only the subtlest of physical cues were allowed, a slight lowering into the knees or perhaps a tiny rotation of the torso.

But it wasn't just the figures. There was also *navigation*. In Rumba, Cha Cha, and Swing, I had done all my stuff in one place. I might rotate this way or that, but I didn't have to go anywhere. In Foxtrot I was expected to keep us traveling constantly in a counterclockwise direction around the room. And not in a nice simple circle or oval—oh, no. At any given moment I might be heading diagonally toward the wall, or away from the wall, or straight ahead, or who

knows where. My very best subject in high school was geometry. I never dreamed it would serve me so well in ballroom dancing.

The choreography was divided into "walls." Thankfully, we had only three weeks to learn the routine, so Brian kept things simple by giving us only two "walls" to memorize, a long and a short.

At the start of the routine, each of the four couples was stationed in a corner. Jessica and I were in the southeast corner. Arthur and Joan, a silver-haired and well-tanned pair of retirees, had the opposite northwest corner. Ahead of them, in the southwest corner, were Dale, a middle-aged freelance consultant of some kind, and Larissa, his suspiciously young and outrageously pretty companion.

Directly ahead of Jessica and me, and always in full view, were Todd and Melinda, a.k.a. Scorpion and Capezio. This arrangement irritated me because ... well, because Todd and Melinda irritated me. They positively oozed smugness. But what bothered me most was that when they danced Foxtrot, they looked *good*. When I danced Foxtrot, I looked like Quasimodo.

So learning this routine was going to be hard. Making it look good would be even harder. Fortunately, I had a secret



You don't have to be a star.....to dance

Weekly Group Class Schedule:

Saturday's:

11:30-12:15: Wedding Dance Class-In 45 minutes you'll be able to hold your own at wedding by learning basic steps to dances.

\$12 per class per person otherwise a package of 10 for \$120

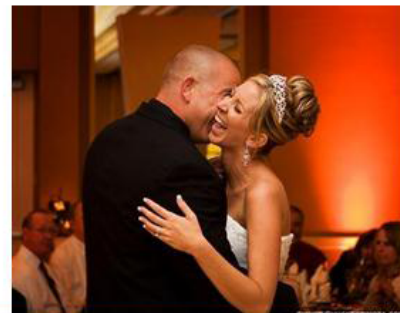
No pre-registration is necessary. Classes are drop in.

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**

*The holidays are quickly approaching.
Purchase your loved one a gift
certificate for dance lessons.*



November 2011



Retro Ballroom of On Your Toes

5810 W. 36th Street

St. Louis Park, MN 55416

952-928-7803

info@onyourtoes.org www.retroballroom.com

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

Halloween Party!

at Cinema Ballroom

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weapon: Jessica. Maybe it was something she brought to the dance floor from her figure-skating days, or maybe it was just a talent she was born with. Whatever it was, it gave her the strength of an athlete combined with an uncanny ability to detect and respond to the faintest hint of a lead.

Joan was a very pleasant partner, but I had to push pretty hard to get her to do anything. Larissa was sweet, but just a little timid and high strung, like a toy poodle. Dancing with Melinda was like riding a runaway freight train. With Jessica, I felt like I could get her to dance on the ceiling if I knew the correct lead.

After the second class, Brian gave us a pep talk about the wonderful progress we were all making—well, most of us, anyway—and a friendly little lecture on the importance of practice. He even offered to let us use the studio between classes. Jessica and I looked at each other. I raised my eyebrows, and she nodded.

The following Saturday afternoon, we met at the studio. No one was manning the front desk. The waiting area was filled with parents, and the front studio was filled with tiny ballerinas.

The music sounded like something from Sesame Street, and the instructor was our very own Cassie. She was wearing faded cut-offs, a Hard Rock Café T-shirt, and no shoes.

"Hey, look who's here!" she called out to us, waving excitedly. "You guys need to work on your foot positions?" We all smiled.

"Actually," Jessica answered, "we were hoping to practice our Foxtrot number. We're taking Brian's class. We can come back later, after you're done."

"No, it's fine! Come on out. We can share the floor. Hope you like Elmo!" Then she shepherded her flock forward, closer to the parents, leaving us a space about the size of an average two-car garage. "Okay, everybody make some room for Jessica and Cordell ... move back a little ... that's right, that's right ... a little more. Okay, now get back in your lines! Show me first position again! Alysha, put your skirt back on!"

The moms and dads scootched over so we could sit down and change into our dance shoes. We stepped onto the dance floor and slipped into our territory behind Cassie.

Competition Calendar

Nov 4 - 6, 2011

Chicago DanceSport Challenge - NQE

Hosted by the Chicagoland USA Dance Chapter #2001. Qualifying event for 2012 Nationals.

Nov 13, 2011

The Quake - NQE

Organized by Ava Kaye & Stephan Kravel in San Francisco, CA. Qualifying event for 2012 Nationals.

Nov 20, 2011

IDSF Adjudicators Congress

IDSF Adjudicators Congress to be held in Columbus, OH, following The Ohio Star Bar.

Jan 13-14, 2012

The Snow Ball

Hosted by Donna Edelstein at Minneapolis DoubleTree Park Place. www.thesnowballcomp.com

Feb 25-26, 2012

Star of the North

Hosted by USA Dance MN at Marriott Minneapolis West, St. Louis Park. www.starofthenorthcomp.com

May 19, 2012

Minnesota Star Ball Dance Competition

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The figure that was giving me the most trouble was the Spin Twinkle. And the part of the Spin Twinkle that had me buffaloed was the heel turn. I couldn't remember which heel to turn on, whether I turned before or after I collected my feet, or how to make the transition from my heels to my toes so that I could Twinkle. Brian had demonstrated this little miracle of body mechanics at least a thousand times—most of them for my benefit—but I just couldn't bring it off. This afternoon, the heel turn still wasn't working, and Jessica and I couldn't get past this point in the choreography.

"Maybe you're thinking too hard," she suggested.

"I have never been accused of thinking too hard," I said with a smile.

"Well, let's just try *doing* it, and we can analyze it later."

I looked at her. "Is it just me, or is Foxtrot harder than every other dance?"

"It is very different," she said. "It really flies."

"I'm always worrying about our feet getting tangled up. Never had that problem in Rhythm."

"Brian has this stuff measured and mapped out down to the tiniest detail. All those heels and toes and angles. It's a little confusing sometimes."

"I'm okay with all the technical information. It's like reading the owner's manual."

"You read owner's manuals ... ?"

"If there were an owner's manual for Foxtrot, I would have it memorized by now."

"I have enough technical manuals to read at the office. Come on. Let's take another run at that heel turn."

We got into dance position and started with Jessica off to my right side. I think this was "outside partner." I started moving backward on my left foot and she came forward on her right. My right foot came together with my left, but, as usual, I wasn't turning. So we tried it again. And again. After three tries, I could feel my blood pressure rising, so we stopped and compared notes.

"I'm having trouble getting around you," she observed.

I thought about this for a moment. "How are you supposed to get around me?" I asked. "Can you show me?"

So she demonstrated her footwork while I watched. I noticed that she really wasn't going *around* me; she was going right *through* me. Which meant that somehow I needed to get out of her way. I thought about this some more. "Okay, let's try it again."

This time, as she came through, I pulled my upper body upward, as I might if I were allowing someone to get past me in a tight space. As I did this, my weight shifted to my left heel. I felt myself rotating as Jessica crossed in front of me. Suddenly, we were in promenade position facing diagonally toward the middle of the floor. Amazing.

Okay. So maybe I *was* thinking too hard.

By this time the ballerinas had all gone home, so I put a Frank Sinatra song on the CD player. The class in the back studio had also ended, and a group of older girls—maybe junior high age—were filing out. They all stopped to watch Jessica and me as we went through our one wall of choreography.

This thing was actually starting to come together. It felt good. Very good. I could feel everyone's eyes on us, and that felt good, too. That is, until I noticed that one of the girls wasn't a student. It was Kristina. Her gaze was directed downward, and I realized she was watching our feet. No doubt she was cataloging all my faults and would probably report them all to Brian that evening. Then she turned to her students and ushered them to the front door.

Jessica and I decided to quit while we were ahead. We sat down in the waiting area to change our shoes. Kristina was doing something on the computer. She looked up at us and smiled. Her silky blond hair was pulled back into a ponytail. Her eyes were a pale green and her nose was slender and sharply cut. It was the face of an aristocrat. "We are always happy to see students practicing," she said with a soft and very cultured accent. German? No. Swedish, maybe?

"Are Saturdays okay for us to come in?" Jessica asked. "We don't want to get in anyone's way."

"Saturdays are not a problem. I hope we will see you again soon." She smiled again, and turned back to the computer.

As Jessica and I walked out the door, I glanced at the clock on the wall and was surprised to see that we had been there for over an hour. It was kind of like our first date. Of course, it *wasn't* a date, but it had been a lot more fun than any of my other dates.

"Are you ready for the next wall of choreography?" she asked.

"I think so," I replied. Then I heard myself saying something I never, ever thought I would say: "How about next Saturday?"

She paused and looked at me thoughtfully. Then she smiled and nodded. "I think Kristina will be expecting us." ■

Minnesota Madness Facts and Fiction

Through the Eyes of Dan Fitzgerald

Patty and I attended our first Minnesota Madness Saturday, October 22nd at the Shakopee Ballroom and had a wonderful time. Prior to attending, I kept hearing comments from others in the dance community like, "Oh, I feel intimidated by high-level dancers," or "I don't want to pay to watch others dance."

Hmm, can I say, "It's all about me"? I thought I would present some of the objections before I clear the slate.

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Patty and I arrived at 10:00 a.m. and entered the ballroom to find people dancing socially and warming up for critiquing of their social and competitive dancing. I saw many dancers that I have seen in different venues around the Twin Cities, such as the Tea Dance, Café Bailar, Beyond Ballroom, etc.

The students from the University of Minnesota Ballroom Dance Club showed up in full force with their young come-fly-with-me attitude. Man, I wish I would have started dancing at a young age. Then, of course, there were Ed and Bonnie, the 2011 dancing sweethearts. Ed wore tails with a white shirt and bow tie, and Bonnie wore a gown with proper accessories—charming, to say the least. Patty and I were excited. We put on our dance shoes and hit the floor. Whoo-Hoo!

We entered into 4 dances. Patty danced a Silver Foxtrot and Waltz with Scott Anderson and one of each with me throughout the morning, mixed in with general dancing. Did I forget to mention? The music by Shane "The Man" Meuwissen was absolutely fantastic.

The morning went by in a flash, and soon it was 1 p.m., and the smooth dances were over. Patty and I went home and had a romantic meal of leftovers. We took care of a few personal things that needed our attention and returned at 4:30. Yes, we missed the Latin portion and heard it was fabulous.

The dinner served by the Shakopee Ballroom was delicious. We were invited to sit with a couple we had seen at social dances, and now we have new friends in the dance world. After dinner, general dancing started again, and as people returned for the evening session, electricity filled the air.

Nels and Theresa did their over-the-top performance, as usual. All the dance performances that night were very well choreographed and executed. The show-stopping performances just kept coming, mixed with social dancing between groups of performances. The formation teams were really fun to watch with their costumes and synchronization.

Then Dance with Us America studio took the floor with an attitude that said, "We're bringing it!" Yes, they were definitely energy-filled, starting with the youngest participants of 7 or 8 years of age up to the masters Gene and Elena Bersten. The entertainment just kept coming. Then Eliecer and Rebecca of E.R.V. studio hit the floor. Wow, their Paso Doble and Jive were spectacular. I think I saw the Bersten brothers watching out of the corner of their eye.

The talent displayed here at Minnesota Madness was overwhelming. Attendance to support our local dance community is important, to say the least. Thanks to Nathan Daniels, Scott Anderson, and Amy Anderson. What a great experience! ■





The MN Madness strikes again!

This super-fun event was held on October 22nd in Shakopee, Minnesota, and included an amazing lineup of events for everyone. Try dancing with a hula-hoop or letting the lady lead—it was all there! The event provided participants an opportunity for critiques from judges instead of placements. This was the premier event for newcomers to dance and an energizing place for those who love to share their ballroom dancing with the community.

Photos from Minnesota Madness by Theresa Kimler



Photos by Cathy Dessert from the USA Dance MN's October Dance Party





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Gentlemen Lead

by Jack Munday



The gentlemen walk over to one side of the dance floor, standing tall and proud. The ladies go to the other side of the floor and look at the gentlemen, swaying and holding their flowing skirts out to the side. The music starts.

The audience has been told this will be a Viennese Waltz, but the staccato clapping by the gentlemen and the accenting sway by the ladies says something

else. Spectators are tempted to shout “Olé!” as the first gentleman comes out on the floor, followed by the second and third, dancing Viennese Cross steps and forming a diagonal.

What follows is a performance by Harry Benson’s Cheek To Cheek Dance Studio’s smooth formation team—Viennese Waltz with a definite Flamenco flavor. Monica Mohn is the coach and designs the choreography for this team, previously helping us with a traditional waltz routine and, more recently, a lively tango.

The Viennese Waltz is considered to be the classic waltz, and is seen in more movies than what is now considered to be a waltz. Both are in 3/4 time, but the Viennese Waltz has a much faster tempo. Originally, it only had the reverse and natural, but now the American style has a full range of patterns. It is a quick, rotating dance with a subtle rise and

fall. Originating in Vienna as its name implies, it is often described as a Northern European formal dance.

Flamenco, by contrast, originated in the Andalusia region of Spain and has had strong influence from the Andalusian Gypsies. The Mediterranean mixture of Christian, Moorish, Jewish, and Gypsy cultures all contributed to the evolution of Flamenco. Of strong and passionate rhythm, with the blend of guitar, singing, clapping, and dancing, Flamenco is a dance to enjoy as a spectator. *The New York Times* recently reviewed a Flamenco performance by Solidad Barrio at the Joyce Theater in New York. One quote describes her dance: “Mistress of suspense, she demonstrates that tension at the very start of a dance and never lets it slacken, while changing its nature again and again.”

Quite a contrast. So how did the Cheek To Cheek Smooth Team decide to combine these dances in its new routine? The simple answer is that the music we selected led to an amalgamation of not only patterns, but also of the choreographic concepts themselves. The dancers, including myself, looked forward to dancing the Viennese Waltz. Monica agreed and began looking for the right music. One day, at a rehearsal, Monica played a number of songs, asking for our reaction to each of them. “Let’s try something different,” Monica said. When we heard the Flamenco style song, we were certainly intrigued, and it grew on us.

Monica began the choreographic work, planning a dance with 125 measures. The patterns are from the American Standard Viennese syllabus, mostly, and there is clapping, stomping, and styling from Flamenco. We rehearsed, practiced, and now are ready to perform. When you see us, feel free to clap. And do shout “Olé!”

*John S. Munday is a writer and lawyer who lives in Isanti County, Minnesota, with his wife Fran. Together they found ballroom dancing at Cheek To Cheek Studio. Jack is a student of Monica Mohn. Jack’s new book, *Beauty In Partnership, A Memoir of Ballroom Dancing*, is available at www.johnsmunday.com and at several dance studios.* ■

Photos by Cathy Dessert from the USA Dance MN’s October Dance Party



Fund Raiser & Celebration *Dance*

Bridget Knickerbocker was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer October of 2010.

She completed chemo in July and radiation in September.

She would like to celebrate her win over cancer and thank all those who supported her.

This is a fund raising dance with all proceeds going to the Knickerbockers.

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ASK DR. DANCE

Donna Edelstein is a popular coach, judge and organizer of the Snow Ball DanceSport Competition.

Q I'm hearing lots of buzz and hype about Ohio Star Ball in November. What makes this competition so special? If I decide to go next year, what should I expect? I dance pro/am bronze and silver.



She Said:

I am prejudiced when answering this question because I have loved the Ohio Star Ball from the first time I attended it about 25 years ago. Sam Sodano, the organizer, is an incredibly friendly man who remembers everyone he meets. The event is action-packed, very competitive, and runs from Tuesday through Sunday in Columbus, Ohio. There is a huge number of pro/am competitors, amateur competitors, and professional competitors, and the collegiate USA Dance Nationals is also held there. Pretty much everyone who is anyone in North American dance attends. The World Pro/Am titles are given out at Ohio Star Ball. There is a huge pro/am team match. There is the Best of the Best competition. It is exhausting, exhilarating, fun, and just a great week. I've been privileged to judge this event every other year, and in the off years, judge the collegiate nationals. I feel it is an honor to judge the Ohio Star Ball, just as I always felt it was a pleasure to dance there. If you have the opportunity to go, don't pass it up.

Donna Edelstein donnawrites@msn.com 763-557-6006 ■

Calling All Stars!

Star of the North 2012 is coming up, and it's going to be bigger and better than ever! But we can't do it alone. We're looking for volunteers to help us plan, research, and carry out the big event. There are plenty of positions still available, including Chair of Advertising, Finances, Community Outreach, and dozens of helpers for each committee. Whether you can donate a little time or a lot, we'd love to have you play a part!

For more information or to volunteer, please email Jessica Madson (jessicacarolyn@hotmail.com)

☛ Contact Anne @ 612.280.7818

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☛ Contact Jeff @ 320 266 4137 or jeff@studiojeff.com

New women's dresses for sale \$200 to \$400 size small. Pics at www.studiojeff.com.

☛ Contact: diana.fu2@gmail.com or 952-288-6159

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Size 2-6 prices \$500-\$700 American smooth gowns. Contact Cheri for details and pictures.

☛ Contact Stacie @ 612-251-8108 or SPIERSON0081@yahoo.com

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Seafoam green latin/rhythm dress. Short playful skirt. Includes matching bracelets, choker and ear-rings. Sizes 0-6. \$1,950.

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Black Lace with peach underskirt smooth gown. Entire dress is lace, long sleeves, open back. Skirt slit in back. Worn on dancing w/ Stars. Size 0-6. \$3,150

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☛ Contact Theresa at theresakimler@yahoo.com or 651-773-3511

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Size 2-6: Black Elegant Smooth Gown. Black mesh peeks through an intricate overlay for a stunning look. Cobalt blue rhinestones, necklace, earrings complete the intrigue of this dress. Long sleeves, one arm with fox fur cuff. See photo in April 2010 issue, page 21. \$2400 pics avail.

☛ Contact AnnaMaria @ 612-280-6869 or annamariagregerson@comcast.net Retiring from competitive dancing, selling my gowns, rhythm dresses, and accessories. Wide variety of smooth gowns and latin dresses.

Princess White Championship Gown, beautiful white lace one-piece, chiffon layered skirt, multicolored AB stones with flower details, open back, accessories available, Marsha Wiest-Hines designed, asking \$1300.

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Gorgeous black rhythm dress, size 6-8, open back, really shows great legs, tons of AB and Swarovski stones, 3 layers of black hand-beading/asymmetrical, will be noticed. Asking \$1275.

Many more showcase gowns/dresses, and evening wear. Sizes 4-8,

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☛ Contact Janie @ 763-797-5230 or janienordberg@comcast.net

Georgious Peach Championship Gown. This dress is one of a kind! Beautiful open back, stretch satin skirt with godets add fullness to movement. Fully stoned bodice and elegant gloves to match! Like new! Made by Marsha Weist Hines. Size 2-8. Asking \$1200. Pics available.
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Elegant Black Championship Gown, luxurious maribu boa on hem & neckline. Beautifully designed with open back and long sleeves, shows off curves. Covered in AB multicolor stones. Size 2-8. \$1100 obo. Pics avail.

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☛ Contact Joan @ 6123864174 or jdazer@comcast.com

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☛ Contact janislivi@msn.com for the following:

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☛ Contact Shannon xin9264@hotmail.com (651)230-8901(c)

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<i>Cheek to Cheek Studio, Coon Rapids</i>	763-755-3644
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<i>Dance with Us America</i>	612-564-5483
Gene Bersten, Elena Bersten, Andreas Mantius	
<i>Dancers Studio, St. Paul</i>	651-641-0777
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Jennelle Donnay	651-357-2060
Donna Edelstein	612-910-2690
<i>E.R.V. Dance Studio</i>	952-303-3339
Eliecer Ramirez-Vargas, Rebecca Dahlquist-Eckhoff, Rachelika Baruch, Will Weaver, Soodi Pessian	
<i>Four Seasons Dance Studio</i>	612-342-0902
Rebecca and Bruce Abas	
<i>Fred Astaire Dance Studio</i>	651-451-6300
Esther Granbois	612-872-1562
David Hanson	218-722-0742
Julie Jacobson	651-261-6442
Tony Karadjov	612-203-5429
<i>LaDanza Dance Club Stillwater</i>	651-439-3152
Mark or Wanda Bierbrauer	
Jay Larson	651-387-3886
Tom Larson	612-371-0300
Deanne Michael	612-508-9255
Monica Mohn	612-874-0747
Jeff & Cindy Nehrbass	952-928-7803
Mariusz Olszewski	612-242-5159
<i>On Your Toes, St. Louis Park</i>	952-928-7803
Jeff & Cindy Nehrbass, Elly Mae Toupin, Laurel Behning, Julie Delene	
Todd Paulus	612-353-4445
<i>Rendezvous Dance Studio</i>	612-872-1562
Mary Rosenstiel	612-720-2584
<i>Social Dance Studio, Minneapolis</i>	612-418-4046
Joy Davina, Todd Paulus	
Alex Spencer	xelaspencer@gmail.com or 646-338-4770
<i>StudioJeff, St. Cloud, Jeffrey Ringer</i>	320-266-4137
<i>Tropical Ballroom, Woodbury</i>	651-414-0644

Services

Made for Movement: costume design, production, tailoring (Marsha Wiest Hines)	952-595-0003
Oh Sew Special: tailoring, alterations, redesign (Susan Richardson)	952-746-5539
Satin Stitches Ltd.: custom designed dancewear (Deborah J. Nelson)	763-323-9507 or 1-800-48SATIN

Clubs

Aqua Gliders Dance Club	612-869-3062
Café Bailar	612-600-5129
LaDanza Dance Club Stillwater	651-439-3152
MN West Coast Swing Dance Club	651-426-8658
REBELS Swing Dance Club	952-941-0906
Tango Society of Minnesota	763-576-3349
Universal Steppers Dance Club	651-783-6619
USA Dance, Minnesota Chapter	651-483-5467

Cafe Bailar Dance Club.....(612) 600-5129
2nd Saturdays at Tropical Bllrm, Valley Creek Mall, 1750 Weir Drive, Woodbury, MN 55125. 4th Saturdays at Retro Bllrm, 5810 W 36th St, St. Louis Park, MN 55416. Lesson 7:30-8:30 pm. Dance 8:30-12 am. \$10, or \$8 members. Membership \$20/yr. www.cafebailar.com or tricia@cafebailar.com

Cheek to Cheek Ballroom.....(763) 755-3644
www.cheektocheekdancestudio.com 11415 Foley Blvd. NW, Coon Rapids. Harry Benson.

Cinema Ballroom.....(651) 699-5910
www.cinemaballroom.com 1560 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul, MN, Dancing Fridays to DJ music and Every Sunday to Live music. Lesson 8-9 pm; Dance 9-12 am. See website for details or e-mail info@cinemaballroom.com

Classic Ballroom.....(763) 519-1314
www.classicballroomdance.com 4228 Lancaster Lane No, Plymouth 55441 (Four Seasons Mall - Cty Rd 9 west off Hwy 169) Dance parties: 1st & 3rd Friday of every month: 7:10 pm - two group classes (1 for newcomers; 1 for bronze level and up); 8-9 pm party follows! Cost: \$15/group & party, \$10/party only.

Club Salsero @ Cinema Ballroom.....651.699.5910
1st Friday Latin Dance Party, \$15 for lesson & party; students with ID receive discount at door.

Dancers Studio.....651-641-0777
www.dancersstudio.com 415 Pascal Street North, St. Paul, MN 55104

E.R.V. Dance Studio.....952-303-3339
816 Mainstreet, Hopkins, MN 55343, www.ERVdancestudio.com

Fred Astaire Dance Studio.....651-451-6300
5300 S Robert Trl, Inver Grove Hts, MN 55077, www.FredAstaireMN.com, invergrovemn@fredastaire.com

Liola-La Bodega.....(612) 823-2661
Lyndale & Lake Street, Minneapolis; Sundays and Mondays SALSA and Latin Dancing Costa Rica-style; Brought by ERVentertainment & Tico Baila (612-240-9053)

Loring Pasta Bar
www.loringcafe.com/pastabar Sunday nights have tango or other latin music from 6-9 pm.

Medina Entertainment Center.....(763) 478-6661
www.medinaentertainment.com 500 Hwy. 55, Medina 55340.

MN West Coast Swing Dance Club.....(651) 487-6821
www.mnwestcoastswingdanceclub.com B-Dale Club, 2100 N. Dale St., Roseville. Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays. Lesson 7:30 pm, Dance 8:30 pm. \$5/WCS members, \$8/non-members.

Naar Grille Salsa Night.....(952) 946-6227
11528 Leona Road, Eden Prairie. Every Friday is Salsa Night from 10 pm-2 am.

On Your Toes School of Dance.....(952) 928-7803
1st Sat & 4th Fri Ballroom Dances. www.onyourtoes.org and info@onyourtoes.org 5810 W. 36th St., St. Louis Park, 55416. Jeff and Cindy Nehrbass.

Rebels Swing Dance Club.....(952) 941-0906
www.tcrebels.com New location for dances: Social Dance Studio, 3742 23rd Ave. S., Minneapolis; 1st & 3rd Sunday Dances; 7-10:30 pm; \$7 / members; \$11 non-members.

Rendezvous Dance Studio.....(612) 872-1562
711 West Lake Street, Ste B, Minneapolis, MN 55408 www.theplacetodance.com

Social Dance Studio.....(612) 418-4046
www.socialdancestudio.com 3742 23rd Ave. S., Minneapolis, 55407

Suburban-Winteret Dance Club.....(952) 894-1424
www.suburbanwinterset.com

Tango Society of Minnesota.....(763) 576-3349
www.mntango.org Location for 2nd Saturday dances: ERV Dance Studio, 816 Main St., Hopkins; Lesson 8 pm; Dance 9 pm - 1 am \$10.

Tropical Ballroom.....(651) 414-0644
www.tropicalballroom.com 1750 Weir Dr., Woodbury, MN 55125 (inside Valley Creek Mall); James & Tricia Wood.

Universal Steppers Dance Club.....651-783-6619
www.universalsteppers.net MLK, 271 Mackubin Street, St. Paul 55102. Thursday class 6-8 \$5. Tuesday practice 6-8 pm. Donations accepted.

MINNESOTA

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