



MANY CONSIDER NEW HAMPSHIRE to be the contra dance capital of the world. For centuries, community members and visitors have gathered together to swing, stomp, and dance in town halls and community centers. Today, the modern popularity of contra dances across the United States traces its roots to the old town halls and dance floors of New Hampshire.

The 2020 Traditional Dance Trail features fifteen dances which take place every month in communities across the state. All dances have live music which is influenced by our state's French-Canadian, English, Irish, and Scottish heritage. You will often hear a fiddle, piano, and a variety of other instruments. A dance caller guides you through each dance by announcing a series of steps. Some dances have beginner workshops or lessons, and anyone can join in at anytime. No partner? No problem! At contra dances, you switch partners often throughout the night. Experienced dancers will be eager to help you with the figures. Grab some friends and head to a local dance!

The NH State Council on the Arts is funded through appropriations from the New Hampshire State Legislature and from a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.



WHAT ARE TRADITIONAL DANCES?

These dances are open to the public, have live music, and a dance caller. The steps and formations have been passed down and adapted since colonial times.

DANCES FEATURED:

Contra

Dance sequences that involve many couples forming a line down the dance floor. Each couple changes neighbors many times throughout the night. The popularity of contra dance across the United States can be traced to musicians, callers, and communities in New Hampshire.

English Country

These dances originated in 17th century English courts and were brought to New England by colonists. Today, many people are writing new dances in that style.

Square

Dance sequences that involve four couples, typically in a square formation.

Photos Courtesy

Roger St. Germain and the NH State Council on the Arts

2020 TRADITIONAL DANCE TRAIL LIVE FREE and

dance

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Concord/Boscawen | 10 Nelson |
| 2 Concord, English Country | 11 Hanover-Norwich |
| 3 Canterbury | 12 Hanover-Norwich, English Country |
| 4 Durham | 13 Peterborough |
| 5 East Derry | 14 Tamworth |
| 6 Keene | 15 Seacoast Contra |
| 7 Kingston | |
| 8 Londonderry | |
| 9 Milford | |



NEW HAMPSHIRE'S TRADITIONAL DANCE TRAIL

CONTRA, SQUARE & ENGLISH COUNTRY



LIVE FREE and
dance



2020 TRADITIONAL DANCE TRAIL



1 CONCORD/BOSCAWEN

Location: Boscawen Town Hall (under Boscawen Congregational Church), 12 High St.
Dates: Third Saturday of every month except July & August
Time: 8pm
Featuring: contra & square dances with live music
Admission: \$8 | ages 15-25 \$5 | under age 15 free

2 CONCORD, ENGLISH COUNTRY

Location: Howard Recreation Center Auditorium, Intersection of Wheelock Dr. & Londergan Rd., on the grounds of the NH Hospital & Gallen State Office Park
Dates: Second Sunday of every month except July & August
Time: 3pm
Featuring: English Country dances with live music
Admission: \$10 | NHECDS members \$9

3 CANTERBURY

Location: Parish House, 5 Center Rd.
Dates: Second Saturday of every month
Time: 7:30pm, beginner lesson at 7:00pm
Featuring: contra & square dances with live music
Admission: \$8

4 DURHAM

Location: Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 20 Madbury Rd.
Dates: First Thursday of every month
Time: 8pm
Featuring: contra & square dances with live music; guest musicians & callers welcome
Admission: \$2

5 EAST DERRY

Location: First Parish Church Hall, 47 East Derry Rd.
Dates: Third Friday of every month except July & August
Time: 8pm, beginner lesson at 7:30pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music
Admission: \$8 | students \$5 | under age 12 free

6 KEENE

Location: Heberton Hall, in the Keene Public Library Annex, 60 Winter St.
Dates: First Friday of every month, November through May
Time: 6:30pm
Featuring: contra & square dances with live music
Admission: Free

7 KINGSTON

Location: Kingston Town Hall, 163 Main St.
Dates: Fourth Saturday of every month except July & November
Time: 8pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music
Admission: \$8 | students \$5

8 LONDONDERRY

Location: Londonderry Senior Center, 535 Mammoth Rd.
Dates: Second Friday of every month
Time: 8pm, beginner lesson at 7:30pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music
Admission: \$8 | under age 12 \$3

9 MILFORD

Location: Milford Town Hall, 3rd floor Auditorium, 1 Union Sq.
Dates: Fourth Friday of every month except November and December
Time: 7:30pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music, sit-in musicians welcome, caller's open mic, refreshments served
Admission: \$7 | students & seniors \$5 | under age 12 free

10 NELSON

Location: Nelson Town Hall, 7 Nelson Common Rd.
Dates: Every Monday night, Winter Solstice, New Year's Eve & other special dates
Time: 8pm
Featuring: contra dances with live music
Admission: \$3

11 HANOVER-NORWICH

Location: Tracy Hall, 300 Main St., Norwich, VT
Dates: Second & Fourth Saturday of every month except July & August; New Year's Eve dance
Time: 7:30pm, with newcomers' workshop at 7:15pm
Featuring: contra & square dances with live music
Admission: \$12 | students \$8 | under age 16 free

12 HANOVER-NORWICH, ENGLISH COUNTRY

Location: Tracy Hall, 300 Main St., Norwich, VT
Dates: Jan 26, Feb 23, Mar 29, Apr 19, Sept 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6
Time: Jan through April, dance starts at 3pm; Sept through Dec, dance starts at 1pm
Featuring: English country dances with live music
Admission: \$8 (\$10 Sept-Dec) | youth \$5 | discounts for members of Muskeg Music or Country Dance & Song Society

13 PETERBOROUGH

Location: Peterborough Town House, 1 Grove St.
Dates: First Saturday of every month
Time: 8pm, beginner lesson at 7:30pm
Featuring: contra & square dances with live music
Admission: \$10 | students & seniors \$7

14 TAMWORTH

Location: Tamworth Town House, 27 Cleveland Hill Rd.
Dates: Second Saturday of every month except August, August dance is August 7; New Year's Eve dance
Time: 7:00pm
Featuring: contra & square dances with live music
Admission: \$8 | children age 12 and under free

15 SEACOAST CONTRA

Location: Newfields Town Hall, 65 Main St.
Dates: Last Friday of every month
Time: 7:30pm
Featuring: contra & square dances with live music
Admission: \$10 | students \$6 | children under age 12 free | family admission \$15



All dance schedules are subject to change.
For contact information and to learn more about traditional dancing visit:

www.nh.gov/folklife