

## **BARN DANCE & CEILIDH BANDS**

### **What is a Barn Dance?**

A Barn Dance, sometimes known as a Ceilidh (Kaylee) or Hoedown, is a mix of dances done in differing formations - lines, circles, squares, partner dances etc. The nature of most dances is that you dance with your own partner but progress to meet other couples with whom you repeat the dance or do a particular movement. It is all very easy and does not rely on your ability to dance intricate steps but rather to know basic movements like do-si-do, circle left and right, and right and left hand stars. The main requirement is to listen to the 'caller', who tells you what to do and when to do it, and to remember the basic pattern of the dance.

It is advisable to try the dances earlier in the evening when the 'caller' runs through the basic movements before moving on to more interesting ones later. Whatever you do - get up and have a go, it really is good fun. You don't need special clothes or shoes - just something comfortable and casual. We can supply a Scottish flavour evening including dances such as Gay Gordons, Dashing White Sergeant, Strip the Willow, and Eightsome reel, or an Irish flavour including Bridge of Athlone, Waves of Tory, etc.

### **Barn Dances for Weddings**

More and more couples are choosing a Barn Dance and Caller as their ideal wedding evening entertainment! It's enormous fun, absolutely informal, just right for every age from the youngest children to grandparents - and it gets both families mixing right from the start! Old or young, can join in! No experience is needed - just the desire to have a really great time. Our Callers start off with easy, simple dances because they're experienced in understanding a wedding's very special needs.

The bright cheerful sound of the music sets the happy scene straight away, so your guests can join in whenever they wish, without feeling embarrassed or left out. It's a great way to get everyone together, with an experienced MC (the 'Caller'), guiding the whole evening, they'll "read" the party's changing moods throughout the evening and sense when the atmosphere needs to be more placid or lively, when the pace should quicken, or slow down. The emphasis for the evening will be on enjoyment and because your Caller walks through each dance first and calls over the music, you don't have to learn or remember anything, it's all done for you, so you don't have a thing to worry about - you can just relax and enjoy your special day with your family and friends!

The lively atmosphere of Barn Dances and Line Dances is guaranteed to get your party going with a swing. Our experienced 'callers' will quickly get even the most shy guests joining in the fun in a way which will amaze everyone. Throw away your inhibitions and relax in a true country atmosphere that quickly makes you feel at home.

### **What is a Line Dance?**

Line Dances differ from Barn Dances in that you do not need a partner and the dancers stand in lines, dancing a series of steps before turning to face another direction to repeat the same step pattern. A variety of tempos are used including waltz, quickstep, cha-cha, all having separate step patterns to remember.

The music, however, is mainly Country and Western. As with the barn dance a leader or 'caller' will teach you the steps and usually dances them in front of you giving you a pattern to follow. No special clothing is needed although most folk, once hooked on it, choose to wear American Country and Western style clothes.

### **Barn Dance Callers**

Hotelentertainment.co.uk can supply a Barn Dance Caller using tapes or CDs for the music rather than a full live band. This is an ideal alternative if space or budget is restricted.

## MOONLIGHTING BARN DANCE BAND



Acoustic instrumental music is ideal for those situations where you want high quality, accessible music that doesn't take over.

MoonLighting is made up of professional musicians from the folk, roots & traditional music world who provide an ensemble to suit your requirements and your budget.

Instruments include violin, accordion, acoustic and semi acoustic guitar, cittern, whistles, bodhran, djembi and other ethnic percussion. We can also supply a caller if you're wanting a barn dance or ceilidh.

## THE YOKELS

The Yokels are a bunch of brilliant musicians, three of whom have been playing and calling for barn dances for over 15 years.

The band are available as a 3-4 piece barn dance band + caller, and are based in the East Berkshire.

With three out of the five having been classically trained, there's nothing folksy about this band; nor are they staid and stuffy.



A good time for all, especially the dancers is the name of the game, all done to an irresistible foot-tapping beat. It's worth coming along to listen, just to hear Nick lead them off into their devilish American reels or their irrepressible Irish jigs.

If you've never been to a barn dance before, there's nothing to worry about; the caller walks you through the dance beforehand and then calls it with the music. We don't care if you get it wrong. After all that's half the fun.



## CEILIDH BANDS



### THE HIGHLANDERS

**The Highlanders** are a professional Scottish Ceilidh and Country Dance Band with an established reputation for dynamic and Contemporary performances of Scottish traditional music.

Formed in 1990 by Bandleader and Accordionist Donald Ross, the musical basis of the band consists of: Fiddle, Accordion and Drums supplemented, whenever necessary, by Electric Guitar and Bass Guitar. The final, essential member of the ensemble is the Caller whose sole responsibilities are thorough pre-dance instruction and programme selection in accordance with the dancers' capabilities. Typical programmes comprise: The Dashing White Sergeant, Barlee Bree, Strip the Willow, Earl of Inverness, Eightsome Reel, The Dhoon, The Flying Scotsman and the customary Gay Gordon's.

## MOONDANCE CEILIDH BAND



**MoonDance** is a well established Ceilidh band featuring a dynamic front line of fiddle, guitar, sax/keys, one of the best rhythm sections in the business and a top caller. The band includes players from such groundbreaking groups as 'The Cluster of Nuts Band', Nightwatch and Jellied Reels and special guests. With MoonDance you can be assured of the very best in danceable music.

The band is a long-standing stalwart of the burgeoning E Ceilidh movement, a mix of English & Celtic social dance where the 'dancing' is more important than getting it 'right' and the purpose is to party - truly harmony in motion.

The music for the dances range from modern arrangements of traditional tunes from the British Isles and Europe, with a smattering of eclectic contemporary material and 'fun' numbers. The band can also provide incidental music to provide a complete night's entertainment. We can also provide music for "non-barn dances" from a waltz to a jive as well as material from our extensive concert set either as background music or as a musical interlude.

The band works with some of the UK's finest dance callers and can thus ensure that the audience will be in the best possible hands, an essential element if everyone is going to have a good time. The caller is well versed in running an enjoyable evening and will select dances to suit the ability of the audience.



**Bernie**

## SOLO PIPERS

All our Pipers are available in Full Highland Dress. As well as the more traditional type of event we are able to provide a full cabaret floor show incorporating a Compare, Gaelic Singers, Ceilidh Band all with full audience participation, both with Bagpipes and Scottish Country Dancing.

## Graham

Pipe Major Graham, was formerly a professional piper in the Scots Guards and is now the pipe-major of a leading Civilian band in the London area. Graham has wide experience of solo and band performances throughout Europe and elsewhere and is especially experienced in the production of cabaret type entertainment, 'team building' corporate events and other events where audience or guest participation is key.



## The Scottish Pipe Band



The Scottish Pipe Band are a network of carefully selected Celtic theme performers located throughout the U.K. and Europe. They are available for any type of private corporate or public event anywhere in the UK, EU or the rest of the world.

Established in 1996, they are now the leading specialist providers of everything from a solo piper right through to a complete Highland Games. Using their widespread international network of performers they can usually offer clients a significant cost saving in terms of performer travel costs.

## Solo Accordionists.



The piano accordion is a very versatile instrument. With the accordion many different scenes can be set. For instance these accordionists play French Cafe music, Italian, English folk, Irish, Gypsy and so on.

Solo accordionist whose repertoire includes standards, French, Italian, Eastern European, Russian, Klezmer, British and American folk and sea shanties. Can also put small ensembles together with violin, guitar, double bass and many other instruments.

## Julian

An extensive range of musical entertainment to suit all occasions. Julian specializes in international music and has played professionally in France, Germany, Holland, Czechoslovakia, Poland and of course his native U.K. Julian has acquired a great international following for his skill and versatility with the piano-accordion. Since the age of seven, Julian has performed on stage, screen and radio. For many years, he studied under virtuoso Henri Krein. Julian Dzubinski has acquired skills which will enchant, whatever your taste in music. From the lilting melodies of the Seine to the ecstatic rhythms of Hungarian Gypsy music through to the raucous tones of the German Bierkeller.

## Sue

Sue plays music ideal for all occasions in authentic style and dress. Her repertoire includes popular songs, film and show numbers, cocktail and dance music from the 20's onwards, evergreens of all vintages, folk, gypsy, classical, swing, opera and an extensive selection of international music from France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Latin America, Greece, Russia, Rumania, Hungary, Austria, Scotland, Ireland, etc.

Her accordion is normally amplified to provide enjoyable background music; she is also happy to stroll among the guests playing requests.