

PAUL SILVERIA

COMMUNITY SQUARE DANCE EVENTS

Paul Silveria challenges the idea that square dances are dull affairs by calling dances with high-energy live music, and creating an event that is fun, beginner friendly, and promotes a sense of community!



ABOUT THE ARTIST Paul Silveria has a passion for sharing traditional music and dance with a wide range of audiences. As a square dance caller, Paul has been calling traditional squares, reels, and big circle dances since 2002. He has called at Pick-A-Thon roots music festival, Seattle's Folklife Festival, the Portland Old Time Music Gathering, and the Berkeley Old-Time Convention, as well as at grange halls, community centers, and other venues along the West Coast. Paul calls to live string band accompaniment, and has worked with many great bands including Foghorn Stringband, and the Tallboys. Paul also organized the successful *Dare To Be Square* West square dance festival in Vancouver BC in 2015, and will be featured at the 2016 Mission Folk Festival.

ABOUT THE EVENT Paul teaches the dances right on the floor, so beginners can be dancing in minutes. His calls are energetic and his engaging figures range from simple to elaborate - a perfect match for any crowd! Paul crafts a dance program that is fun, lively, and comfortable for dancers of any experience level.

Paul calls for adults, kids, and mixed age crowds., and his dances are great for weddings, holiday parties, school programs, school family nights, block parties, team building events, community centres, festivals, corporate events — you name it!

HOW IT WORKS Paul requires live musicians as accompanists when calling a square dance. He can either bring two or three professional musicians with him or will search out and work with local musicians from your community. (The latter is a much more cost-effective option.) For **technical requirements**, all that is needed is a raised platform, a microphone on a stand, and if it's a really big room and you're expecting hundreds of people, some sort of acoustic amplification for the band.



www.kbamonline.com



How to Put On a Square Dance

Everything you need to know to put on a community square dance featuring professional square dance caller Paul Silveria !

What sort of venue is best?

- ◆ A square dance needs an open dance floor
- ◆ Community centres, church halls, and fraternal halls are great options
- ◆ 'Dance capacity' is about 60% of the seating capacity of a venue.

How do I set up the venue?

- ◆ A perimeter of chairs or table seating around the dance floor is best

What about kids?

- ◆ Paul's square dances are great all-ages events.
- ◆ Kids as young as 6 can dance with their parents
- ◆ Younger kids will enjoy watching and dancing on the sidelines.
- ◆ Paul can call family dances geared toward young children and their parents

How do people learn the dance moves?

- ◆ Dancers learn all the moves right on the floor!
- ◆ Paul leads a walkthrough before every dance.
- ◆ The walkthrough is quick and efficient: about 3-4 minutes

Can we hold the event outdoors?

- ◆ Yes!
- ◆ Check to see that the ground is flat and even,
- ◆ If it's a summer day, the dancing area should be in at least partial shade

How do I promote a square dance?

- ◆ Post one of Paul's YouTube videos to social media to show people exactly what to expect: www.professorbanjo.com/square_dance/
- ◆ Help people know what to expect by using some of these phrases in your promotional material:
 - ◆ "Live Music"
 - ◆ "Professional square dance caller"
 - ◆ "Beginner friendly"
 - ◆ "Everyone welcome"
 - ◆ "All dances taught on the spot"
 - ◆ "Bring a partner or find one there!"
 - ◆ "Come to dance, or come to watch!"

Does Paul come with his own musicians?

- ◆ Paul calls dances to live music, and there are several ways as to how the musicians can be engaged
- ◆ Paul can bring a band of top notch musicians from Vancouver
- ◆ Or, Paul might be able to source musicians from your community.
- ◆ If you are booking a festival, Paul may be able to work with a string band already on the bill.