

Our Side of the Mic

An article sponsored by the Denver Area Callers & Cuers Association

Bob Riggs ... Fall 2022

As you dance do you feel the way you move to the rhythm of the music? Do you hear the beat in the music and take one step for each beat? Do you have a habit of continuing to move in place when at your home spot in the square or simply not currently moving? If these are true, then you ARE dancing. If these are not true, then you are simply moving around the floor and not getting the most out of your dance experience. If you are part of this latter group, ask us to help you feel the beat. Ask us to help you dance the choreography to/with the musical rhythm instead ignoring it.

Published several times this year the following quote reflect both Dr. Lloyd Shaw's philosophy and my own.

“Rhythm is the essence of all true dancing! Without rhythm, you are not dancing! And with poor uncertain rhythm you are dancing very poorly indeed. It doesn't matter quite as much with beginners. But with experienced dancers you should become more experienced with rhythm with each step you take. This silent seeking for perfect rhythm will keep you dancing all your lives, and still seeking the truths that lie beyond it. But ignore the rhythm, make it secondary, seek for the outward forms of style only, and you will soon tire of the game and quit forever.”

Dancing has resumed at most of our clubs and venues. I hear some lingering concern, but most are adjusting to the post COVID world. In most venues precautions are being taken by individuals and by clubs to ensure the safety of our fellow dancers. We encourage those of you who haven't yet attended a dance to venture out and see what happens. So, attend a dance near you and enjoy your old and new friends in this wonderful activity.

Join your club and caller/cuer in their efforts to teach a new crop of recruits the calls/steps of our activity. Be a GOOD ANGEL. Let the instructor teach, be in the right place at the time when the student needs to touch your hand. DON'T BE THE TEACHER. BE A FRIEND!