

CLASSES

SCOTTISH DANCES IN THE BALLROOM

Appropriate for dancers who have been attending classes regularly for at least 6 months, who are familiar with basic footwork, figures, and geography, and who are interested in learning new dances. This low-pressure and relaxed class will help dancers improve their abilities to dance from a briefing, focus on dance etiquette and practice recovery skills.

CHALLENGE DANCING AND TECHNIQUE

Suitable for dancers with more than 1.5 years' experience who are familiar with standard steps and formations, are able to dance from a talk-through, and are interested in improving technique. Dances may require a combination of high-energy movement and intense mental focus.

SUNDAY COMBINED CLASS

Low-impact dancing with Helen and Ellen.

ROUND TABLE WITH THE RSCDS CHAIRMAN

Helen Russell, Chairman of the RSCDS, will lead a discussion on current RSCDS activities, including the work of the committees and of the paid staff at 12 Coates Crescent, which aim to achieve the vision for the future of Scottish country dance.

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

8:00 p.m. Welcome Dance

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

8:45 a.m. Registration/Coffee

9:15 a.m. Warmups

9:30 a.m. First Class

10:50 a.m. Break

11:10 a.m. Second Class

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 p.m. Ball Review

7:30 p.m. Reception

7:55 p.m. Grand March

8:00 p.m. Argyle Ball

Afters Party

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

10:00 a.m. Combined Class

12:00 p.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m. Round Table

CONTACT

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ARGYLE weekend



Nov. 10-12
2017

Alexandria
VIRGINIA

Featuring

RSCDS Chairman Helen Russell,
Ellen Sears of RSCDS New York,
Thistle House, and Laura Risk

MUSICIANS

Thistle House

David Knight, fiddle

Dave Wiesler, piano

Dan Emery, pipes

with

Special guest fiddler

Laura Risk

Originally from California, Laura grew up in the thriving San Francisco Scottish fiddle scene, learning her craft from master fiddler Alasdair Fraser. Upon moving to Boston in 1996, Laura joined American roots band Cordelia's Dad. By 2001, Laura had moved to Montreal to continue her successful recording and concert career.

Laura's imaginatively expressive interpretations of Scottish, Irish, Cape Breton, and Quebecois fiddle music have garnered international acclaim. "A virtuoso fiddler. Her fluency in fiddle styles from Cape Breton to Appalachia is remarkable," raves The Boston Globe, while Folk Roots (U.K.) calls her playing "technically excellent and highly expressive." Says Grammy-winning filmmaker Ken Burns, "Laura Risk's fiddle is a revelation and achingly beautiful."

TEACHER

Helen Russell

Helen Russell is Chairman of the RSCDS until November 2018.

Originally from north of Aberdeen in Scotland, Helen started dancing at the age of seven by attending highland dance classes. At Summer School at St Andrews in the late the 60s and early 70s she was taught by Miss Milligan and obtained her Teachers' Certificate in 1971.

Since then she has taught classes wherever she has lived, from Aberdeen to Australia. In the past twenty-five years, she has delivered workshops, day schools, weekend courses, teaching skills courses and tutor training courses in the UK, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Russia, USA, Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Since returning to Summer School in St Andrews as a teacher, she has taught a range of classes and courses in basic Highland, Ladies Step, Intermediate SCD, Very Advanced SCD technique, mentor training, Basic SCD teaching skills, pre-candidate courses and has been a tutor for the Teaching Certificate on several occasions. She is currently an examiner for the RSCDS.

For three years she was the convenor of the RSCDS Education and Training Committee and has also been involved in editing several RSCDS publications, including 'The St Andrews Collection of Step Dances'. More recently she was convenor of the RSCDS Manual working group, which produced the third edition of the RSCDS Manual of SCD.

TEACHER

Ellen Sears

Ellen Sears started Scottish Country Dancing in 1989, began teaching in 1995, and received her full certificate from the RSCDS in 2004, at TAC, with John Middleton. She lives and teaches in New York City, where she is currently president of the New York Branch. She has danced on many New York area demonstration teams, and recently taught at several east coast workshops.

Ellen loves all forms of dance and dance music, but it is the passion expressed by the driving reels and elegant strathspeys that makes Scottish Country her favorite, and she delights in the precision and phrasing of this dance style. Before retiring, Ellen designed lighting for architecture.

LOCATION

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes
Lower School

400 Fontaine Street
Alexandria, Virginia

15 minutes from Washington, D.C.