

# *A Day of Dance*

*Exploring the Role of Music and Dance in  
Shaker Worship, and Connections  
with English Country Dance*

**Saturday, May 12, 2018**

**At the 1848 Meeting House**

**25 Meeting House Road, Albany, NY 12211**

- 1:00 pm **Keynote address** by Shaker music scholar,  
Mary Ann Haagen
- 2:15 pm **Workshop** on Shaker dancing
- 3:30 pm **Presentation/Workshop**, English Country dances to  
Shaker tunes, including two world premieres by  
English dancing master **Colin Hume**
- 6:30 pm **English Country Dance** - Caller, Melanie Axel-Lute,  
Music by Spare Parts (Bill Matthiesen,  
Liz Stell, & Eric Buddington)

**\$15 - Keynote address & Workshops    \$10 - Evening Dance    \$20 - All sessions**

**For information: 518-456-7890, x3, [www.ShakerHeritage.org](http://www.ShakerHeritage.org), [shakereducator@gmail.com](mailto:shakereducator@gmail.com)**



Sponsored in part by the Dance  
Alliance and an Outreach Grant from  
the Country Dance and Song Society



## Day of Dance: Exploring the Role of Music and Dance in Shaker Worship

This colloquium-style forum will begin with a key note lecture by noted Shaker music scholar, Mary Ann Haagen (Visiting Scholar at Dartmouth College and Director of the Enfield Singers). Preliminarily titled, “Can’t You Sing and Dance A Little? - Shaker Marches, Dances and Motioning Songs,” the lecture explores the Shakers’ use of movement to generate and sustain spiritual energy in worship.

Two participatory dance workshops on Shaker and English Country dancing will include both discussion and demonstrations followed by an opportunity for all who desire to dance and learn the historic choreography.

The workshop on Shaker dance will be led by Dr. K. Michelle Arthur, Education Coordinator, Shaker Heritage Society and will include a variety of styles of songs and dances that span the nearly 250-year history of Shaker dance. For the first fifty years of Shaker history in America, movement to sung hymns was unique to each individual, and participants believed that their movements were directly inspired by heavenly or spiritual communications. In the 1820s after Mother Lucy Wright was named to lead the sect, set choreography was introduced to accompany the singing of the hymns.

The English Country Dance Workshop will be led by caller Melanie Axel-Lute and music will be provided by Spare Parts. Shaker tunes have often found their way into secular culture, such as the inclusion of “Simple Gifts” in the ballet “Appalachian Spring.” Choreographers of modern English country dance, which traces its roots to dances done in the 1600s to tunes by Purcell and his contemporaries, have found Shaker tunes a rich source of inspiration. The program will premiere two pieces written expressly for the occasion by well-known English dancing master Colin Hume.



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