



To our DanceFlurry community—
 Living up to our motto—*Connecting and Inspiring Through Traditional Music and Dance*—requires the DanceFlurry Organization to continue looking for new ways to reach dancers and musicians in the Capital Region while sustaining a considerable lineup of current programs.

There are few other organizations working on a regional basis to provide year-round contra, swing, English Country, Cajun & Zydeco, Family, and Community dances, while also presenting special events such as the **Flurry Festival—our 30th in 2017!** All of this is due to a phenomenal group of dedicated and talented volunteers (some of whom have been a part of the DFO and Festival for all or most of those 30 years), a highly engaged board, several part-time staff members—and **your participation and financial assistance.** We invite you to please renew your membership (which runs Jan.-Dec.)—or join as a new member—and contribute generously to our annual appeal. Online and mail-in forms are at www.danceflurry.org/help_member.php.

For several years, our DF-YO! (Youth Outreach) and Program Grants have helped other organizations present programs in traditional music and dance. We were proud to sponsor the Mission Accomplished Dance-A-Thon, family dances at schools, a dance and an information booth at the Empire State Kids Expo, Reggie Harris teaching folk songs at the Parsons Families United Network outing, a day of African Dance and Drumming Workshops, and scholarships to the Flurry Festival. We hope to continue to inspire people of all ages and abilities to engage in traditional forms of dance for their health and happiness.

We've begun to work directly with other organizations to provide both financial and technical assistance for new programs. We are partnering with the Shaker Heritage Society (SHS) to offer several weeknight contra dances in their beautiful 1848 Meeting House, with music provided by the DFO's Capital District Megaband (an open community contra dance band), and are also collaborating with SHS on "A Day of Dance" on May 12, 2018. A lecture, participatory workshops, and an evening dance will explore the Shakers' use of music and dance in their religious services and the influence of Shaker music on English Country dance.

Switching gears on May 20, 2018, the Flurry Festival will join with the Saratoga Performing Arts Center and the Saratoga Arts Fest to present an afternoon of swing dancing on the main performance stage at SPAC. This is our first opportunity to work with SPAC. It would be wonderful to add more traditional music and dance events to SPAC's outstanding line up of classical and contemporary artists.

More information about these endeavors and other projects will be available in our newsletter (out in January) and on our website—which we are in the process of overhauling to provide information more effectively. You can keep track of these programs via our monthly email Newsletter/Dance Calendar. Sign up on the DFO's web site, www.danceflurry.org. (We do not share subscribers' information.)

The DFO relies heavily on our volunteers to fill our local dance calendar and manage our special events. And we count on you, through your admissions, memberships and donations, to help sustain our programs and expand the work to "connect and inspire." **We greatly appreciate your support of and participation in the DanceFlurry community.**

Thank you, on behalf of the DFO Board and Flurry Festival,
 John Guay, President, DanceFlurry Organization

