



Join us for the

Virtual Dance Room

(www.virtualdancerroom.net)

Post-Dance Discussion for 05/22/2020

Friday 10:30pm-ish CDT

Pros & Cons of Plans to move DC Folk Fest Online (Friday-Sunday, July 10-12, 2020)

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Ethnic Dance Chicago / Door County Folk Festival

To Register/Subscribe for Password and to submit dancing/teaching requests:

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Please consider making a donation to support production of the Virtual Dance Room – see back page.



Virtual Dance Room – Post-Dance Discussion

Friday, May 22, 2020 – 10:30pm-ish CDT

Let's Discuss Pros & Cons of Plans to move DC Folk Fest Online – July 10-12, 2020

I'm energized by the breadth and passion of the pro-con discussions about an online summer festival that we've already had within the VDR team. I'd like to broaden this discussion to include perspectives of others who are willing to share their ideas, thoughts and feelings. I'm sharing some pros and cons that have come to my attention since I announced the probable move of the DC Folk Fest online.

You can also weigh-in on this issue via the VDR Subscription/Request/Feedback form: www.virtualdancerroom.net/feedback/

Pros

- Virtual dancing is helping the IFD community deal with social distancing (see **VDR Survey Results – will be emailed to subscribers this week**)
- Tom Pixton (Pinewoods Band) has agreed to provide an hour of live music for 3 evening parties
 - Perhaps we can get other musicians to participate
- Cancellation of most camps/workshops presents an opportunity for an event not to cancel and to explore the following:
 - Doing some different things and doing some things differently
 - Doing things with virtual tools and processes that we've not considered and that may bring more joy into our lives
- Opportunities to do some creative things with Zoom breakout rooms including:
 - Special interest discussion groups – culture sessions – many possible themes /topics
 - Specially themed dance (or non-dance) events
 - Social gatherings/interactions (non-dancing) among those with existing friendships
 - Social gatherings/interactions (non-dancing) among strangers – building new friendships among dancers
 - Group gatherings for meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
 - Slide show or video presentations of dancing from other areas
- Many opportunities for people to pick and choose what they want to do
- Opportunities to feature regional leaders beyond those seen in local online events
- Opportunities for leaders to present dances in a less rushed environment
- Opportunities for leaders to present dances unique to their repertoires to broader audiences

Cons

- Concerns that or concerns about:
 - there is lots of virtual dancing already happening – all over – every day
 - We are getting over-saturated with virtual dance sessions
 - We will be even more over-saturated with them by July
 - There's lots of virtual dancing already going on over many weekends
 - The same presenters/teachers we're already seeing online will be featured again
 - Many of the same dances we're seeing will be presented again
 - People might want to be spending more time outside in the summer
 - People might not want to participate all day in festival activities
 - Zoom's audio/video quality and synching issues detracting from the experience
 - We're already hanging out virtually with the same groups of people 2-3 times a week
 - Some folks' indoor dance environments (spaces, surfaces) are less than optimal for extended periods of dancing
 - People would be sitting in front of their computers, tablets, smart phones for long hours
 - People already have limited time for conversations and interactions in the current Zoom environment



Thank You for Attending the **Virtual Dance Room**

Session #09

Friday, May 22, 2020 – 8:00pm-10:30pm-ish CDT
(Warmups/Ice Breakers: 7:30pm – Discussion: 10:30pm-until ...)

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virtualdancerroom@ethnicedance.net



+1 847-846-8139

While there is no charge to participate, please consider making a donation to support production of the Virtual Dance Room. This will help us survive this period of social distancing when all of our events have been postponed.

You may donate using a PayPal account or a major credit/debit card at: www.virtualdancerroom.net/donate/

For offline donations mail a check endorsed to *Ethnic Dance Chicago*: EDC, P.O. Box 25548, Chicago, IL 60625

Thanks for your participation and support!

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