

# Virtual Dance Room – Post-Dance Discussion

## Friday, June 26, 2020 – 11:00pm-ish CDT

### Zwiefacher Dances

#### About the Discussion

- It is a dance with very old roots, possibly back to the 1400's. The modern German Language and (approximate) borders date to the 1860s and composers of Zwiefacher music still used an obsolete style for music scores as late as the 1920s. Most Zwiefacher tunes are named and spelled in German dialects. Many dialects feel that spelling rules apply only to proper German. Thus the way to spell and dance a Zwiefacher might just as well match the way you hear and see it on a CD or YouTube.
- The best translation of the name Zwiefacher is Zwie=both and facher=facing. Yes, other translations are offered. It probably evolved from the original face to face couple dance. A man and woman dancing facing in a close hold? Sinful and illegal, call the police. Thus the oldest records using the name Zwiefacher are arrest records in 1790. In 1663 a conservative religious faction banned 17 dances in the Black Forest by name, 14 are now called Zwiefachers. Enforcement was more than difficult, all but 2 are still popular.
- Zwiefacher seems to have a 125-150 year cycle of major popularity. It is currently at a peak with many new compositions in traditional and modern styles. Researchers cruise basements of music libraries, exposing forgotten ones. (But how did a contest for the most unusual new Zwiefacher vocal in 2017 put the rap Zwiefacher only in 2<sup>nd</sup> place?)
- The Zwiefacher is usually made of waltz and pivot rhythms, 3/4 and 2/4 times, mixed in some repeating pattern. Some tunes include Polka or Schottisch steps in 4/4 time, You may always dance a 4/4 measure as two pivot steps if you wish. The Zwiefacher originally turned in place, more or less. Imagine dancing; then in a small tavern on an Alpine hillside, or now in your kitchen. American folkdancers picked up on a less common style, traveling the floor like a Viennese waltz, rare in the Alps. It's not wrong to dance that way. It's just harder on you and your partner, especially overcoming momentum changes between a half turns that take 2, 3 or 4 beats. In place you can turn at a constant speed, in either direction. You can move, avoid sharp elbows, etc.

#### About Patrick Mc Monagle

- Patrick's hometown is Seattle. He began German dancing in High School in 1965. By 1967 he was learning Scandinavian dancing from Gordon Tracie and Balkan from Dennis Boxell. At that time he began growing International dancing at the University of Washington and founded the Seattle Folkdance Festival in 1969. During that time he was temporary president of an Israeli folkdance group.
- He was on the team for the first Seattle Folklife Festival in 1972 and all but 1 or 2 since. Pat has served on the board of the Skandia Folkdance Society and the Seattle Folklore Society. In April of 2019 he and wife Marjorie Nugent made the lucky decision to spend a week in Munich dancing the Zwiefacher. They could have scheduled a longer trip this March to include a Zwiefacher festival, canceled of course.
- Pat currently teaches a Zoom Zwiefacher class, see [www.folkdancing.com/zwie](http://www.folkdancing.com/zwie). Pat leads folkdance at Seattle's Swedish Club and is a three decade instructor and dance leader at the Junction City (OR) Scandinavian Festival. He taught at a half dozen NEFFAs. His international folkdance database started on punched cards in 1967 and now indexes about 950 Zwiefacher recordings and 1,250 Zwiefacher music scores. (Those counts do include duplicates.)





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

## **Session #14**

**Friday, June 26, 2020 – 8:00pm-11:00pm CDT**

*Warmups/Ice Breakers: 7:00pm – Repertoire Workshop 7:30pm – Discussion: 10:30pm-until ...*

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