

**Open letter to folk dance and renaissance / medieval musicians in the Waikato**

Dance Folkus, Waikato's traditional world dance and historical dance group, presents regular recreational dance courses for adults. I am keen to promote and provide opportunities for musicians and dancers to collaborate together. One can dance without music, and make music without dancing, but to combine the music with the dance creates a vibrant energy that resonates within both the dancer and the musician.

For those with an interest in playing for historical or folk dance, Dance Folkus invites you to be part of these collaborations, working together to make wonderful things happen. Often a dance requires a specific piece of music, but sometimes a style of music is all that is needed. Below are some opportunities of interest:

**French music**

On Saturday 24 March Kate Grace will run a French dance and singing workshop in Hamilton. On the Saturday evening Dance Folkus will hold un 'Petit Bal' in Hamilton. As a musician herself, Kate is keen to pull together a 'scratch band' of enthusiastic musicians to play along.

**The New World**

This course will focus on those dances of the 'old' world including the Celtic and 'romance' countries that morphed their way into the culture of countries such as Canada, USA, Australia, NZ, Israel, South America etc giving rise to some fantastic melodies in French Canadian, Cape Breton, contra dance, Bush Dance, Cajun, Tango and samba styles etc

**Celtic Dance Club**

I'm bringing back four nights this year with a focus on fun Celtic Ceilidh dances (of all genres) and hoping we can have live music for all or part of the evening – there will be a mix of styles played each evening.

**Medieval and Renaissance Dances**

There are some bands that specialise in this form of music, but the ones I know of are based in Auckland. I'm looking for local musicians with an interest in these musical genres

**Balkan Beat**

Music from Greece, Turkey, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia and Albania – looking for anyone with an interest in these styles

**Eurogypsy**

Anything goes when dancing across the musical borders of Europe

So if you play fiddle, keyboard, flute, harp, piano accordion, melodeon, whistle, double bass, percussion .... and are looking for opportunity rather than remuneration, come play along with Dance Folkus. I am happy to start very low-key and if someone only wants to learn one tune for one dance at required tempo and play along at one class, that would still be fantastic.

**Contact Fiona Murdoch on the email address above or 07 856 8324.**