

Canadian Folk Music

Musique folklorique canadienne



Kelly MacLennan and Melody Cameron

Special Double Issue on Step Dance

Edited by
Heather Sparling
Sherry Johnson
Kristin Harris Walsh

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From the Editor

Being a dancer myself, I was excited to get a letter from Heather Sparling asking if I'd be interested in a special issue on step dance that she, Sherry Johnson, and Kristin Harris Walsh were considering. Naturally, I said yes immediately, and turned this issue over to them to guest edit.

I didn't expect, however, that the issue would amount to ten articles, each on a particular stylistic or regional slice of the tradition we call step-dancing in Canada, nor did I expect the diversity in approach from the articles the editors gathered. Featuring pieces on Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, PEI, Quebec, Ontario, and the Prairies, from both Canadian and international authors, this issue of *Canadian Folk Music/Musique folklorique canadienne* has turned out to be one of the finest I've read.

I'd like to extend my gratitude to all three authors; because we had so much material, we turned this issue into a double one, and there was much to navigate during the process. Their patience and deep knowledge of the subject has resulted in a careful and wide-ranging examination of step dance traditions across Canada, and it was a pleasure to work with them. I'll let them take you through the contents of the issue in their introduction, though I encourage you to read from cover to cover!

Please enjoy the Summer issue of *Canadian Folk Music/Musique folklorique canadienne*, and continue to send ideas, articles, and letters to us.

Gillian Turnbull, Editor

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