Programming by Tim Marriner

Programming is a set of goals or a plan of action accomplishing an end result. Programming makes for better dances by assuring variety increasing overall enjoyment. It is the "art" of successful calling! For some, programming may come instinctively for one night but not during an entire season with multiple sessions. A well thought out plan of action will help you achieve the goals you set.

Forms of Programming
1. Program a set of calls within a patter
2. Program an entire tip
3. Program an entire dance
4. Program a set of lessons
5. Program an entire club season

Factors That Effect Programming
Known Factors
  a.   The staffing of the dance
  b.   The CALLERLAB program of the dance
  c.   The duration of the dance
  d.   The location of the dance
  e.   The theme of the event

Unknown Factors
  a.   The dancers ability
  b.   The size of the crowd
  c.   The hall ambiance
  d.   The weather
  e.   Your own health

How to Program
Write it down! Make a simple outline for yourself. Keep a sheet that you can either print out or have preprinted so that you can conveniently plan ahead. If you are planning a season keep track of dates and be flexible in case of cancellations or other problems during the year. Keep a copy of all your programs to refer to them at a later date to compare your current progress. Every season, workshop, dance and tip must have highs and lows, a time to pick up the pace and a time to relax. All of the factors above will affect the peaks and valleys. Be flexible adjusting to the needs of the dancers. Take **A.I.M.** - **A**djust, **I**mprove, and **M**odify. On this same sheet you can keep track of the attendance, income, expenses, even what you wear.