

Dare to be Square Down Under dance and music weekend with Phil Jamison

Friday 10th- Sunday 12th April, 2026. Nipaluna/Hobart, Lutruwita/Tasmania.

Draft programme - subject to minor changes

Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/daretobesquare>
 Details: folkta.org/daretobesquare

Weekend or individual event tickets

All events led by Phil Jamison (USA), dance caller, old-time musician, flatfoot dancer, scholar of traditional Appalachian music and dance and author.

For decades, Phil has danced, called, sung and played at numerous music festivals and dance events throughout the US as well as in Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Iceland, Denmark, France, and China. Now he's coming to Tasmania.

He was for many years an academic at Warren-Wilson College in North Carolina, teaching both maths and old-time music, ballad singing and flatfoot dancing.

His book and presentations Hoedowns, Reels and Frolics have reinterpreted and revealed the real and diverse roots of Appalachian music and dance.

Phil's website: philjamison.com

Our musicians for the weekend will be Phil, plus veteran local old-time musicians Ross Smithard and Up Jumped Trouble and the Rusticators.

ACTIVITY	TIME	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
Friday 10th April			
Presentation and Concert	6-8:30pm	Presentation on the roots and development of Appalachian music and dancing, by Phil Jamison (USA, philjamison.com, dance caller, old-time musician, flatfoot dancer, scholar of traditional Appalachian dance and music). Followed by a concert of old-time music, ballads and dancing.	TBC
Saturday 11th April			
Flatfooting Workshop with Live Music	11:00 for 11:15am-12:15pm	Flatfooting is a traditional form of percussive step dance from the southern Appalachian Mountains of the United States. With roots in earlier dances from the British Isles and Africa, this American dance form is the ancestor of tap dance as well as modern clogging, but as a solo social dance form, it is a way to participate in the dance music with your feet. We will start out with the basic steps and movements of the dance. No prior percussive dance experience is expected or required to participate. No special footwear is required, though smooth, hard soled shoes work best and make the steps easier.	St James' Church Hall, 462 Elizabeth St (off Rupert Ave, enter behind church)
Dance workshops (Southern Squares + Southern Big Sets) with Live Music	1:15 for 1:30-4:00pm	Southern Squares – In this workshop, we will look at the defining characteristics of Southern squares and dance some of the classic figures from the Southern square dance repertoire. (tea and coffee break, then ...) Southern Appalachian Big Sets – Southern square dances are basically circular dances for four couples. In this workshop we will dance a number of big set square dances, as they are danced in communities in Appalachia, in larger circular sets.	St James' Church Hall, (as above)
Southern (Appalachian) Square Dance with Live Music	7:15 for 7:30-11:30pm	Grab a partner, come out on the floor, and get ready to do-si-do! Join us for a session of traditional old-time square dances from the southern Appalachian Mountains of the United States. These traditional community folk dances are family-friendly, open to all ages, and welcoming to all. Although these dances have traditionally had gendered roles, that aspect is now de-emphasized; anyone is welcome to dance either role and join in the dance. No prior experience or partner is necessary to participate. Phil Jamison will teach all of the dances and call out the figures. We will dance a variety of traditional squares and circles, and maybe the Virginia Reel as well. Guest callers: Sarah "Twinkletoes" Lewis and David "Oddsocks" Wanless. Bring a plate of supper to share.	St James' Church Hall (as above)
Sunday 12th April			
Square Dance Calling 101	10:15 for 10:30am-11:30am	An introduction to the art and science of Southern (US) square dance calling. Participants will have the opportunity to try their hand (or voice) at calling out the dance figures. No prior experience is required. Dancers welcome too - you can be more or less cooperative guinea pigs.	TBC
Squarewell Dance with Live Music	12:45 for 1:00-4:00pm	More old-time square dances and a bit of flatfooting. Guest callers: Sarah "Twinkletoes" Lewis and David "Oddsocks" Wanless and those from the callers' workshop are welcome to call as well. No dancing experience or partner required. All ages and identities welcome. Bring a plate of afternoon tea to share in the break.	St James' Church Hall (as above)
Old-time Fiddle Workshop	4:15 for 4:30-5:30pm	Intermediate level, fine for those who play fiddle even if they don't know any old-time music. Learning by ear. All ages and identities welcome.	St James' Church Hall (as above)
Old-time Music Session for Musicians, Dancers and Listeners	5:30-7:00pm	All welcome, including dancers for impromptu square dancing or flatfooting.	St James' Church Hall (as above)

All ages and identities welcome.

Session and discounted weekend tickets are available. Entry conditions, health, safety and inclusion: folkta.org/conditionshealthsafety

Information about finding the venues, and reducing our environmental impact in transport and at the events, is at

folkta.org/venuesenv

Cathy and David, volunteer organisers, 03 6273 2127, folkdancetas@gmail.com

Folk Federation of Tasmania Inc, folkta.org/daretobesquare, Facebook: Dance Folk Tasmania or FolkTas, Instagram: folkta

See folkta.org/hobartdances for our other events including Intergalactic Shamrock Celtic Ceili (28th Mar), Derwent Regency Festival (27th-30th Nov), Regency Picnic (18th Jan), Monday Night Folk Dances (1st and 3rd Mondays, Feb-Dec), End of Month Dances/Balls (last Saturday, Mar-Nov)