

## CEILI DANCING

### by Richie Mullaney

<http://naukabezgranic.pl/podcasty/ireland/>

Hello and welcome, this is Richie Mullaney from Learning Without Borders. I'm here, today, to talk about Irish Ceilí dance, which is a form of Celtic dance which we do in large groups, usually between 50-60 people up to even 500 people.

In Ireland, we have something called a Feis ceoil, which means true music in Gaelic, the Irish language. This is where we have a few bands playing around a field and have up to a 1500 people dancing set dances of which trainers usually dressed in kilts, which is the way I do it, will instruct the dancing to a few people, and the music will continue, then more people will join in and you have a feis ceoil, you have a Céilí!

So, we do ceili/ceilidh dancing in Ireland and Scotland because it is a Celtic tradition; Celtic being the culture of both... of course we would use Celtic instruments such as the fiddles, bodhrán and sometimes something like a double bass, and high pitched instruments, such as flutes and tin whistles.

Finally there's the jigs and the reels; these are the names given to the general steps to create the dances. Some of these dances include the Gay Gordon from Scotland, The Walls of Limerick from South Ireland and many more.

Some of these... over 1200 years old have a long time for any level of choreography to be going on.

Ceilí dances can be found in most small towns around Scotland and Ireland but the most famous being in Edinburgh the capital of Scotland.

All parts of British culture we can see set dancing if you are in the south of England you can see Morris dancing, if you are in the Midlands you can see Maypole dancing! Seems to be something that always in Irish and British culture we enjoy gathering together in large groups for these large social events.

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I think one of the main differences between Ceilí and some of the Polish folk dancing... which is very beautiful but very skilled... whereas Ceilí is something that anyone can jump in and do, that is really the way it has been designed.

There's something to do with Celtic culture that really encourages and embraces inclusiveness, including those people with two left feet, two right feet or one of each.

Ceili is something that everyone can enjoy!

Note: This is spoken English and spoken grammar, the script reflects the story telling style.