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The Story Of Irish Dance



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Synopsis

From early accounts of dance customs in medieval Ireland to the present, Helen Brennan offers an authoritative look at the evolution of Irish dance. Every type of dance from social to traditional to clergy is included. Brennan takes care to explain the different styles and traditions that evolved from different parts of Ireland; which results in some lively discussions as people reminisce over old favorites. She also discusses how dance evolved to become such an important part of Ireland's culture and history. An appendix is offered to help explain the various steps involved in each style of dance including the Munster or Southern style, Single Shuffle, Double Shuffle, Treble Shuffle, the Heel Plant, the Cut, the Rock or Puzzle, the Drum, the Sean Nos Dance Style of Connemara, and the Northern Style.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Helen Brennan was a consultant for the producers of Riverdance. She lives in Dublin, Ireland.

I bought this book because I had to write a paper about the history of Irish dance for school. It was not only helpful, but also fascinating, because of my personal experience with Irish Step dance. I have taken Irish dance classes for around 7 years now, and I thought that it was interesting how the different techniques came to be used. While I did use two other books as sources for my paper, I found myself coming back to this one again and again for information. If you are interested in learning about how Irish dance became what it is today, I would definitely recommend this book

Interesting history of Irish dance. It was a little 'text' bookish in parts but there was also a lot of interesting information. Be sure to read the introduction as it was like a little story in itself. If you are interested in Irish dancing, you will probably find this book interesting as well.

Great gift for my Irish dancer. Arrived quickly.

This is a helpful and concise overview of the history of Irish dance. It is great for anyone looking to hear about the traditions and evolution of this popular form of dance.

My mother bought me this book last spring when my parents visited Ireland. The author was kind enough to autograph it for me. That alone was enough to make me want to read this book, but once I started, I couldn't put the book down. Ms. Brennan tells the story of Irish Dance with an obvious love of the subject and a gift for storytelling. She introduces us to famous dancers of the recent past and tells the story of dance in different areas of the country. I found myself enjoying this book more than I ever expected, and learned a great deal in the process.

" This work not only fills a vacuum for traditional music aficionados but is a spell-binding read" - SUNDAY TRIBUNE (Dublin)"THE STORY OF IRISH DANCE is a serious study which succeeds in being both entertaining and stimulating." - IRISH NEWS (Belfast)"THE STORY OF IRISH DANCE is of interest to the general reader and as a source for scholars of Irish dance, dance anthropology, folklore and cultural studies" - IRISH TIMES (Dublin)" .. a remarkable collection of anecdotes and well-researched background... a fascinating account." - IRISH INDEPENDENT (Dublin)"THE STORY OF IRISH DANCE is a catalogue of extraordinary anecdotes, meticulous research and the rehearsal of acrimonious controversies whose effects linger on today." - THE EXAMINER (Cork)"Helen Brennan has written a fascinating account." - R.T. & . GUIDE (Dublin)"THE STORY OF IRISH DANCE really is a story to be read by anyone with an interest in any form of dance .." - DANCE EXPRESSION (U.K.)"THE STORY OF IRISH DANCE is a must, not only for Irish dance fans, but also for anyone interested in Ireland's wonderful past. Helen brings history to life." - IRISH DANCING MAGAZINE"This book not only weaves a social tapestry around the dance but is also a reminder not to lose sight of the basics. It is a 'must' for anyone involved or interested in Irish dancing." - SET DANCING NEWS (Ireland)

The Story of Irish Dance was a great book! I learned so much about the history of Irish dancing! The

author writes in such an engaging style that transports the reader back through time. I am an Irish dancer and I would defiantly recommend this book to other Irish dancers as well as anyone with a love of Irish history. :]

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