



History of the Line Dance

The scholars argue about the actual origin of the line-dance. There are as many different views as there are line dance dances today.



It is generally accepted that the roots of line dancing are folklore dance. In the 19th century, European immigrants who left for North America were said to have stashed various folk dances in their luggage. After all, on the adventurous and dangerous journeys in the covered wagon through the country, regular rest days had to be taken, during which music was played and danced to it. In other words, many different peoples came together and brought their own dances with

them. Here, a lot has probably mixed and complemented and thus the line or square dance took its course.

Later in the second half of the 19th century, it was the cowboys who had to perform daily hard and sometimes even life-threatening work. They sat in the saddle for hours, guarding the cattle herds.

After such work, the cowboys, in their spare free time, yearned for rest and distraction, with the feminine society extremely thin. Therefore initially only men danced. Of course they did not want to dance in public as "real men" - they formed rows or lines. Already the line dance was born. Characteristic were the country style and the simple steps that reflected the culture of that time. This has been demonstrated by show inserts, e.g. Spins or pounding loosened by the cowboys.

Over time, the cowboys and immigrants settled down. They founded settlements, later cities. Now joined to our lonely cowboys slowly the cowgirls and the course for the couple dance were provided. Dances like Two-Steps, Wild Wild West, Cotton Eye Joe and many more come from this time. Even then, people agreed that line dancing is a good way to spend your free time while promoting community.

At the beginning of the previous century, folk dancing was even included in schools as a subject for physical education. So many young people learned the country and western dance. In the 1950s, a special highlight was the American TV show "American Bandstand". Here, the latest dances were distributed weekly under the name Line Dance. One of the most famous dances out of this is the Elephant Walk.

In 1978, the movie "Saturday Night Fever" triggered another wave of dance. When country and pop seemed to blur in the 1980s, John Travolta came out with the movie "Urban Cowboy", which once again started a line-dance avalanche.



A milestone in the definitive American and worldwide distribution of line dancing in today's country and western style is the song Achy Breaky Heart (1992 - interpreter US musician Billy Ray Cyrus), to which several well known and popular line dances are assigned.

Long line dancing is a widespread hobby, which finds more and more fans worldwide. Meanwhile, there are even European and World Championships. The fascination of the line dance is that all dancers speak and understand a common language, namely **dancing**, discovering new dances and having **fun**.