Spring ESCapade Music Workshop
April 23, 2016 9am to 12 pm
(followed by a Dance Styles Workshop and Dance Party)
Summit Presbyterian Church
6757 Greene Street, Philadelphia, PA 19919

led by **Liz Donaldson** (piano)
for those familiar with playing for either Contra Dance,
English Country Dance, or Scottish Country Dance.

We'll cover what is the same about playing for these three dance forms and what is different.

Contras - The music is usually in 6/8 or common time (2/4, 4/4, or cut time)
The music is usually in 32 bars, structured AABB
There are myriad tune types within those parameters
Opening of the dance is usually 4 beats (Four Potatoes)

English - The music can be in 6/8, common time, 3/4 time (waltz or minuet), 3/2, 9/8
The music is often in 32 bars, but there are many exceptions.
There are again, a host of tune types covering a wide historical expanse
Opening of the dance is usually 2 beats (two notes), or can be a longer introduction (two to four bars) if the dance leader and the musicians agree.

Scottish - The music is usually in 6/8 (jig), or common time (cut time) (reels), and the Strathspey - about half as fast as the reels or jigs, and in 4/4 time. The Strathspey, slow and elegant, is unique to Scottish Country Dance.
The dances can be in 32 bars, 40 bars, 48 bars, or other combinations such as 1x88, and usually in 8 bar phrases.
The music runs the gamut from very early Scottish tunes, to those written today.
The dances all begin and end with a "Bow Chord"...played the same way for each meter.

We'll have about 40 minutes to cover all this for each style of dance, so we'll be touching briefly on playing some of the different styles in each dance form, and playing a medley or two for Contras and Scottish, and playing English Country Dance tunes in different styles and improvising on them.

I plan to teach to musicians who can manage the basics of playing for dancing, particularly being able to maintain the tempo required for the dance. So I encourage all those who have experience in some or all these styles to turn out for this workshop as well, and stay for the dancing portion of the afternoon. One always learns something new!

More Info:
Go to: FaceBook and search for ***Spring ESCapade*** for more information on the music workshop and the Dance Workshop which follows led by callers Jenny Beer, Kathy Giacoletti, and Mark Hillegonds;
Music by **Adam Oleksa** (fiddle) and **Liz Donaldson** (piano)

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