



fiddle, piano
party game, circle dance

Old Brass Wagon

Want to go a-courtin' but not allowed to dance? Well then, try this once popular "party game" as a way to get to know each other.

Key G, first note do(G)

a cappella count-in: 1 2 Circle...

Old Brass Wagon

Square/Circle Dance

Traditional

arr: LJ Clare

d d d d d d d l, s, r r r r r s, s, l, d

Cir-cle to the left, old brass wag-on, Cir-cle to the left, old brass wag-on,
Cir-cle to the right, ...
In__ and__ out, ...
Swing_ oh_ swing, ...
Do_ Si__ Do ...
Pro__men-ade home ...

m m m m m r d l d r m s, l, d d

Cir-cle to the left, old brass wag-on, you're the one my dar - ling.

Just what is an "old brass wagon?" It probably wasn't a wagon made of brass. It might be a brass cannon (a different version of this song), or it might refer to the shape made when people cross the circle during the dance tracing the spokes of a wheel. Whatever it is, this song/dance are part of the party dance tradition from the time in American history when cards and dancing were frowned upon in much of polite society. Young people wanting to get to know each other would meet at homes and play games ---games with music and hands touching, but allowed as children's play.

Try Some
New Moves!

In traditional square dancing, one person --the CALLER-- sings out the kinds of moves to be made woven into a song. This dance doesn't have much of a song attached to it, but it does have plenty of space to allow the CALLER to change the moves. Tired of "swing oh swing", try "stamp your feet" or "sway your hips"! If the CALLER has a good strong voice, then the moves may be left as a surprise which will mean the dancers need to be listening as well as moving to keep up to the beat.

Old Brass Wagon

Key G, first note do(G)
a cappella count-in: 1 2 Circle...

Square Dance
Traditional
arr: LJ Clare

d d d d d d d l, s, r r r r r s, s, l, d

Cir-cle to the left, old brass wag-on, Cir-cle to the left, old brass wag-on,
Cir-cle to the right, ...
In__ and__ out, ...
Swing_ oh_ swing, ...
Do__ Si__ Do ...
Pro__men-ade home ...

m m m m m r d l d r m s, l, d d

Cir-cle to the left, old brass wag-on, you're the one my dar - ling.

Music & Movement/Dance Pioneer Dance

Formation: circles of 3 to 8 dancers

- 1 Play a little bit of the sing-a-long version of Old Brass Wagon. Stop it and ask: **"Does anyone know what kind of music this is?"** (square dance, pioneer dance) **"Yes, its dance music. The singer is the caller in the dance, calling out the instructions to the dancers. "Circle to the left" is dancers join hands and move to the left around the circle (usually side step but any movement will work), then "circle to the right". Let's try it."**

Probably easiest to assign students to groups, then ask the groups to make circles. Dance the first two verses. Note: there is an interlude between each verse giving students a chance to stop and get ready for the change in step. When done "for real" the verses would follow one immediately after the other.

- 2 Teach the remaining steps. Try the whole dance.

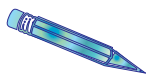
"in and out" dancers 4 short steps in to centre of circle, raise hands
 dancers 4 short steps back out (repeat)

"do si do" dancers drop hands, cross own arms,
 pass right shoulders with another person,
 until verse ends with dancers in circle again

"promenade home" two dancers join hands
 both dancers walk around circle clockwise

Dancers often learn the words to music while dancing --a form of learning by immersion.

- 3 Comment on what was done well. If it went smoothly add clapping while standing still during the interludes, and try again.



Song and Dance Old Brass Wagon (Learned in Lesson September 4A)

Time to get up and moving around and back to the pioneering theme. Ask students the names of the pioneering songs learned in the last lesson. Remind students that they've already learned a pioneer dance. Focus on the moving with the music. By this time of year, most students should be moving easily with the beat. Watch for who is still having difficulty co-ordinating with the beat during the dance. If there are a number of students -- talking about the beat doesn't usually help. More time needs to be spent walking, clapping, swaying, etc. to the beat when singing songs.



Play Music

Dance and Sing-a-Long with Recording
Old Brass Wagon

February Week One Lesson 20 B Page 222

Old Brass Wagon

Key G, first note do(G)

a cappella count-in: 1 2 Circle...

Square/Circle Dance

Traditional

arr: LJ Clare

d d d d d d d l, s, r r r r r s, s, l, d

Cir- cle to the left, old brass wag-on, Cir- cle to the left, old brass wag-on,
Cir- cle to the right, ...
In__ and__ out, ...
Swing_ oh_ swing, ...
Do_ Si__ Do ...
Pro_ men-ade home ...

m m m m m r d l d r m s, l, d d

Cir- cle to the left, old brass wag-on, you're the one my dar - ling.

Just what is an "old brass wagon?" It probably wasn't a wagon made of brass. It might be a brass cannon (a different version of this song), or it might refer to the shape made when people cross the circle during the dance tracing the spokes of a wheel. Whatever it is, this song/dance are part of the party dance tradition from the time in American history when cards and dancing were frowned upon in much of polite society. Young people wanting to get to know each other would meet at homes and play games ---games with music and hands touching, but allowed as children's play.

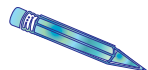
Try Some New Moves!

In traditional square dancing, one person --the CALLER-- sings out the kinds of moves to be made woven into a song. This dance doesn't have much of a song attached to it, but it does have plenty of space to allow the CALLER to change the moves. Tired of "swing oh swing", try "stamp your feet" or "sway your hips"! If the CALLER has a good strong voice, then the moves may be left as a surprise which will mean the dancers need to be listening as well as moving to keep up to the beat.

Enjoy the Repertoire

Student Choice of Song or Dance

New Repertoire



Donkey Riding

Old Brass Wagon

Key G, first note do(G)
a cappella count-in: 1 2 Circle...

Square Dance
Traditional
arr: LJ Clare

allegro

d d d d d d d l, s,

Cir-cle to the left, old brass wag-on,

r r r r r s, s, l, d

Cir-cle to the left, old brass wag-on,

m m m m m r d l, d

Cir-cle to the left, old brass wag-on,

r m s, l, d d

You're the one my dar - ling.

allegro

d d d d d d d l, s,

Cir-cle to the left, old brass wag-on,

r r r r r s, s, l, d

Cir-cle to the left, old brass wag-on,

m m m m m r d l, d

Cir-cle to the left, old brass wag-on,

r m s, l, d d

You're the one my dar - ling.

Old Brass Wagon

Key G, first note do(G)

a cappella count-in: 1 2 Circle...

allegro

Square Dance

Traditional

arr: LJ Clare

d d d d d d l, s,

The first staff of music is written on a five-line staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature is 2/4. The melody consists of eight notes: four quarter notes (D4, D4, D4, D4) followed by a quarter note (G4), an eighth note (A4), and a quarter note (B4). The notes D4, D4, D4, D4, and G4 are circled. The notes A4 and B4 are connected by a slur.

Circle to the left, old brass wag-on,

r r r r s, s, l, d

The second staff of music is written on a five-line staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature is 2/4. The melody consists of eight notes: four quarter notes (G4, G4, G4, G4) followed by a quarter note (A4), an eighth note (B4), and a quarter note (C5). The notes G4, G4, G4, G4, and A4 are circled. The notes B4 and C5 are connected by a slur.

Circle to the left, old brass wag-on,

m m m m m r d l, d

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff contains a sequence of notes: five quarter notes (m), a quarter note (r), a quarter note (d), a quarter note (l), and a quarter note (d). The notes are grouped by a large bracket underneath.

Cir-cle to the left, old brass wag-on,

r m s, l, d d

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff contains a sequence of notes: a quarter note (r), a quarter note (m), a quarter note (s), a quarter note (l), a quarter note (d), and a quarter note (d). The notes are grouped by a large bracket underneath.

You're the one my dar - ling.