

Folk revolution now!

Building consensus with sounds and movements

What is folk ?

Folk is the music and dance of the people, the basic and easy melodies or dances to get the whole bunch of people participate, because everybody can dance and/or play at his/her level. It enables people to be together in consensus with sounds and movements, leaving space for individual expression too.

In Folk, music and dance function together in harmony and complementarity.

What folk is not ?

Folk is not something that somebody "knows", nobody knows what it was before and what it is now does not need to be similar to what it was before anyway. There are no precise steps or music, you just have to be in harmony with

your partner or the group. Folk is not static and dead, it evolves with society. Folk is certainly not what happens in these new discos with private earphones.

How did it develop ?

Folk has developed from groups of people that wanted to have fun together. All sorts of things were easier to do together, like harvest, building a shelter, getting warm, finding a partner. One thing is sure, it was better to do these things while having fun. People possibly begun to move together for example holding hands, themselves singing or with others making noise. Nobody really knows how this slowly developed, but we got to the point where some basic music and dance steps were agreed by the group. In some places like Alsace, most of ancient folk music and dance have been forgotten. Sometimes like in Brittany, or south France a few old folkies could teach their way before they died. Sometimes folk is composed by a specific group or author. It is folk when it becomes people's music and dance. Since you can't get rid of it, it always comes from a cultural background. With different waves of revival in which folk was invented or reinvented, it now exists a whole folk culture away from the big medias.

Why is folk interesting ?

There are many reasons to participate in that movement.

- It is good for you. It develops loving more. It makes you healthy. It gives an incredible energy, it almost puts in a trance !
- It is a perfect non material fun, you just need people and musical instruments if you do not sing. It seems to be lot nicer and less polluting than to have fun with racing cars or with guns.
- Society has recently developed into a society of spectacle. We passively watch with envy a non event. This has lead to loneliness, feeling dispossessed of our lives, feeling disconnected of others. On the contrary, folk makes everybody participate.

- It develops diversity of life. It develops an understanding and a recognition of each others culture.
- Folk can also bring all types of people together, young, old, rich, poor, from all background and they feel connected. Punks with hippies with paysants with intellectuals with preppies with factory workers... Because the world will only change when people will get together, folk dance and music have a great potential to make society change.
- Folk can be a first step to link people to build a community feeling, basis for a new local and global networking.

Learning folk

Being able to dance or play music in harmony with others is not innate. We need to agree on some basic sounds or movements.

There are 2 ways

- Without analysing, just get in the crowd and try. After several years of trying you will manage, and you will certainly have a fantastic personal natural style. But you better start young. It is better if you grow up in a family that dance and play.
- By learning some basic music or dance steps. It is a lot faster but less natural. When you know the basics you will be able to improvise, add your personality, be yourself in the crowd.

The folk revolution

Society has evolved toward more and more individualism, uniformisation and loss of physical contacts. Folk can, among other things, reverse that trend. It can transform any disused factory, any urban highway, any boring congress center into a friendly human space.

Folk is what will continue after the rave when the fuses have blown

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