

Colonial American Dance & Music



What did people do for fun in the Colonial era? They sang, made their own music, and danced! Are you looking for a way to bring the Colonial era to life? Participants will learn firsthand how people socialized and hear anecdotes from American history. Encourage them to come in costume from clothing they already have – or make their own.

Colonial New York and New England was a crossroads of trade, commerce and culture, influenced by Dutch, French, German, English, African and Native American among many other peoples and traditions. “Multicultural” is not a new concept.

The audience will connect with centuries-old traditions and participate in the traditional house party dances as generations of Americans have done – by dancing! Squares, contras and circle dances were brought to American from Europe and Africa.

The program includes a sit-down period to talk about the dancing, music, instruments, and cultures. We play tunes, sing songs, and teach about the origins of traditional folk instruments including the fiddle, gourd banjo, mandolin, penny whistle, recorder, and more.