

# Desert Island Discs *meets* Desert Island Dancers



Along the lines of the famous Radio 4 programme, Desert Island Discs, we are asking Line dancers which dances they would take on a desert island. Choreographer, Alan Haywood has sent in his choices.

**A**fter almost ten happy years there are many dances which strike a chord when the music plays. Instantly these tunes bring back fond memories of family or friends and one or two special moments that I can reflect on. Lots of dances mean different things to me, for example, the very first step I took on the dancefloor was dancing One Step Forward choreographed by Betty Wilson and Charlotte Lucia. Linedancer Magazine published the dance back in April 1998 (if you are a collector it had Scooter Lee on the cover).

Here we are 10 years on and still dancing One Step Forward. Thankfully I am allowed to chose a collection of dances to have on my desert island and the next on my list is another old classic Flying 8s. I witnessed this dance at my first ever Line dance class and thought – I want to do that! In general, Line dancing brings so many warm fuzzy feelings to me. Many great friends I have made on the circuit have been at my side no matter what and I am very grateful for their support.

Believe it or not, I cherish a dance, choreographed by Christina Browne, which everyone has heard of. Can you guess which one it is yet? Red Hot Salsa. The first time Fiona and I danced as a couple this music was playing – who would have thought what was to follow.

The story continues with my next special dance– the one we danced together at our wedding reception. It is Kate Sala's Heaven Sent (aka Simplemente).

It is full of wonderful memories, representing the start of something new. A very special dance for a very special memory. Also on that day, as we signed the register, Amazing Faith was playing in the background. We have frequently danced this since that day back in May 2004 and each time I get butterflies – but don't tell Fiona!

Stepping forward to more recent times I really enjoy Can't Stop A River by Peter Metelnick and Alison Biggs. I absolutely love the way the dance flows – it fits to the music perfectly – and I always enjoy waltzes. Fiona is not a fan but I convinced her to dance this one with me and it may have changed her opinion just a little.



I was hooked on American Idol during the fourth series and we both fell in love with Taylor Hicks. His song, which I love, was the inspiration for a new dance which I dedicated to Fiona called Are You Proud. It is a special dance for Fiona which makes it a special dance for me and check out the American Idol website Taylor Hicks loves to dance!

The most successful dance I have choreographed is Spooky so, of course, I would like to have that with me. I was shocked when it came second at the Windy City Line Dance Mania in Chicago. The whole experience was a huge buzz and I have been shocked to see floors full at various socials and events – thank you to everyone who dances Spooky – you make my day.

Hopefully I would not be stranded for very long – I couldn't cope without my lovely wife and all my Line dancing friends – unless I could think of a way to bring them along with me!

We look forward to hearing what your choices would be ... and why.



