

“Just Got To Move” Does It

My husband Robert and I are avid ballroom dancers, and have traveled many places over the years in search of the ideal spot to engage in this sport. We have found places that are great for when we are in the mood to work hard on practicing our technique and partnering, and places for when we are in the mood to just have fun, but in either case what draws us back to any particular venue has always been the music.

The dance floor does not have to be large (or even clean!), there doesn't need to be a large selection of food to keep me going (although plenty of water is a must), and the other dancers do not even have to be aware of dance floor etiquette (though it helps), but if the music doesn't make me want to stay on my feet all night (or most of it), I probably won't be back.

My love of dance had driven me to acquire quite a collection of what I considered great ballroom music, when some friends of ours came up with the idea of starting a dance social of our own. Needless to say, they asked my husband and I to handle music for these events - and we quickly agreed! First we developed a rotation of dances, based on our own experience as well as by talking to other dancers to get their feedback. Then my husband and I jointly reviewed all our music, and gave it a rating to identify what we felt were the best selections.

While preferences in music certainly vary from person to person, what I decided to use as my criteria when choosing music to play was really very simple - does it make me feel like I just have to get up and move, or doesn't it? I get great satisfaction when I watch dancers heading for their seats at the end of a song turn around and pull each other back out to the dance floor time and again as a new piece begins. And I know we're doing something right when our regulars say they come back for the music - "just got to move" seems to do it every time!

Submitted by: Michelle Friedman

TANGO MUNDO A TEATRO SO PRODUCTION

This theatrical spectacle was held October 12 at Montclair University, Montclair

The show featured Maestro Raul Jarena and his orchestra and singer/actress, Marga Mitchell and her troupe of dancers.

The troupe performed in cabarets in France, Japan, Italy, Buenos Aires and New York. The program consisted of the traditional tango of long ago and the modern vanguard of the art form. The Argentina dancers demonstrated the many forms of tango currently in the country.