

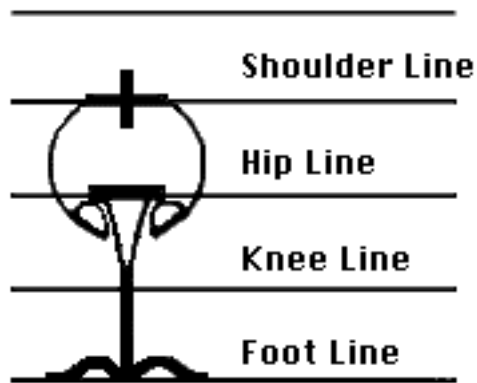
Sutton

DanceWriting[®]

...read and write the movements of dance...

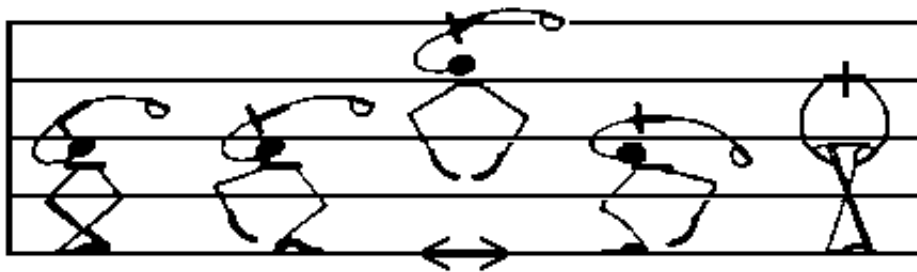
Sutton DanceWriting

DanceWriting is a way to read and write any kind of dance movement. A stick figure drawing is written on a five-lined staff. Each line of the staff represents a specific level. The bottom line of the staff is called the Foot Line. It represents the ground. The next line up is the Knee Line, which is at knee level, when the stick figure stands straight. The next line up is the Hip Line, and after that, the Shoulder Line:



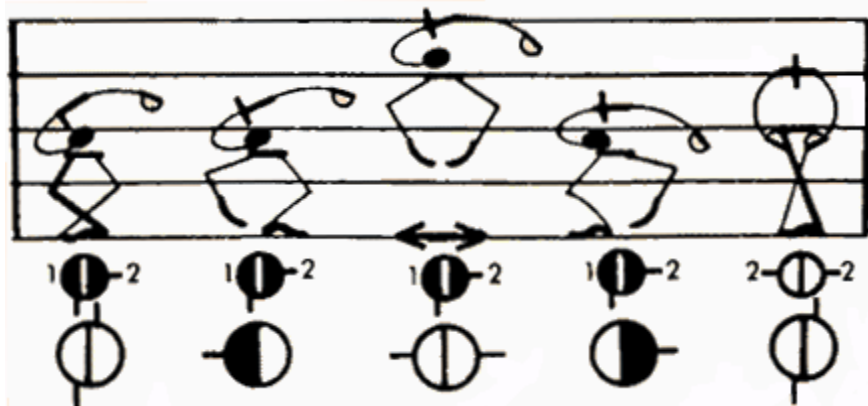
Levels

When the figure bends its knees or jumps in the air, it is lowered or raised accordingly on the staff. The five-lined staff acts as a level guide. Figures and symbols are written from left to right, notating movement position by position, as if stopping a film frame by frame.



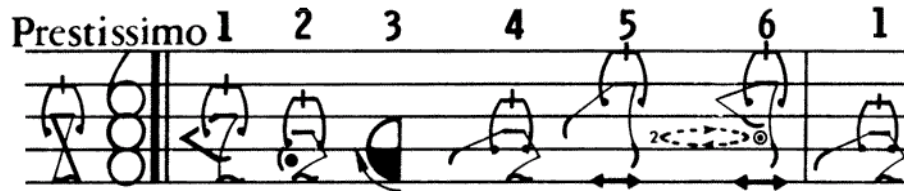
3-D Symbols

When more detail is necessary, special 3-D Symbols, representing the third dimension, are written under the stick figures. There are two rows of 3-D Symbols. The round circles picture the head as seen from above, providing an "overhead view". The spokes projecting from the circles show the direction of the limbs in relation to the center of the body. The first row of small symbols represents the overhead view of the arms and upper body. The second row of large symbols represents the overhead view of the legs and lower body:

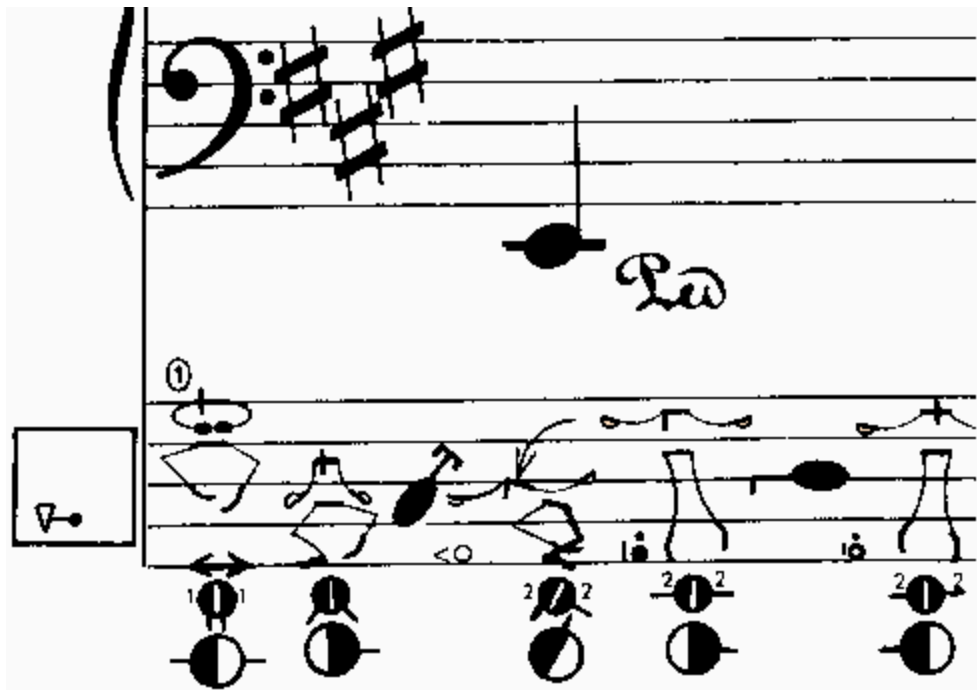


Music Counts

Counts coordinating with the written music are placed above the staff and the dance is divided into dance measures.

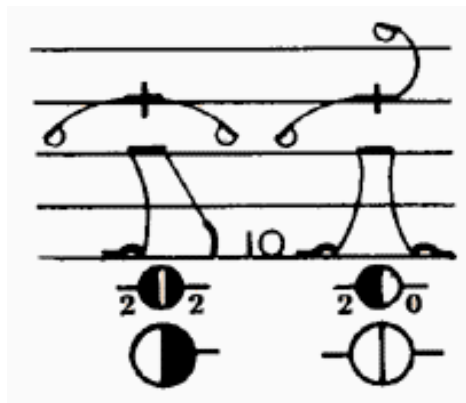


Or the dance can be written directly under the musical notes:



DanceWriting Shorthand

DanceWriting Shorthand enables the writer to write movement at the speed it occurs. Similar to a secretarial shorthand, it is a shortened version of the stick figure, that, with special training, is written without looking at the hands. An entire solo dance can be captured in "first-draft" form using the Shorthand. The Shorthand notes are later transcribed into detailed DanceWriting. Once one is skilled in Dance Writing, it takes about 20 hours of special training to learn the Shorthand. In the late 1970's, hundreds of dance students in the Boston Conservatory of Music's Dance Department learned the Shorthand with success.



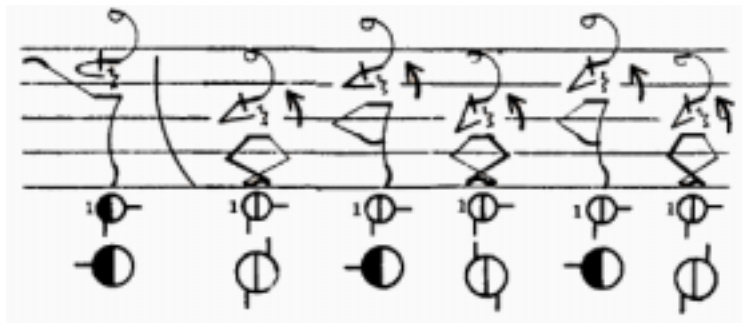
DanceWriting



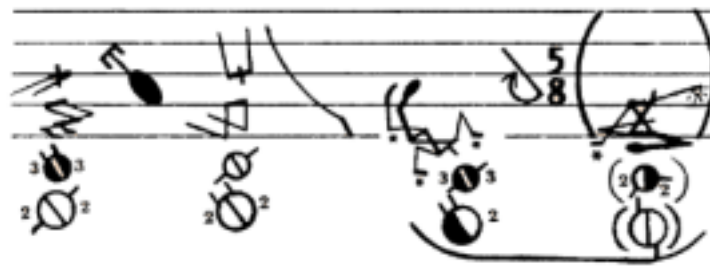
DanceWriting Shorthand

Examples of Notated Sheet Dance

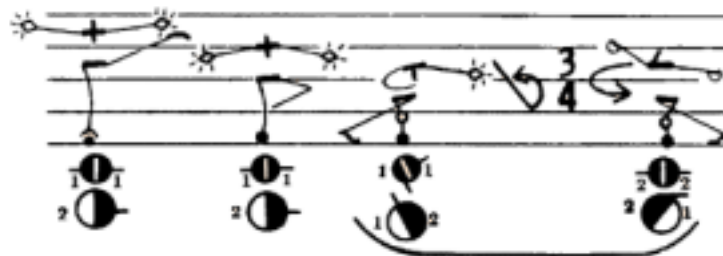
Classical Ballet



Modern Dance

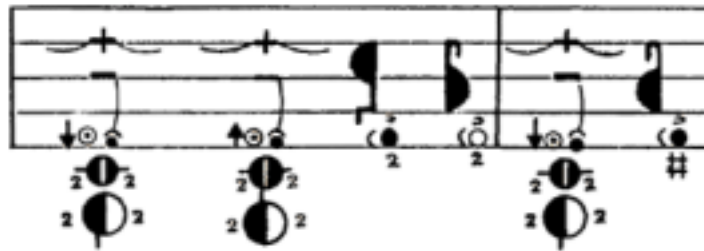


Jazz Dance

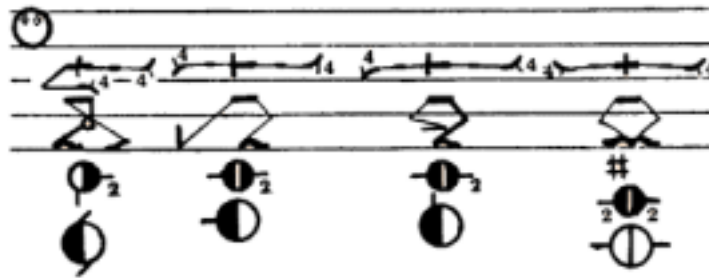


Examples of Notated Sheet Dance

Tap Dance



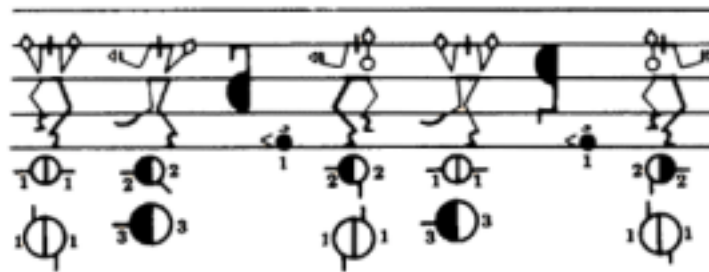
Folk Dance



Social Dance

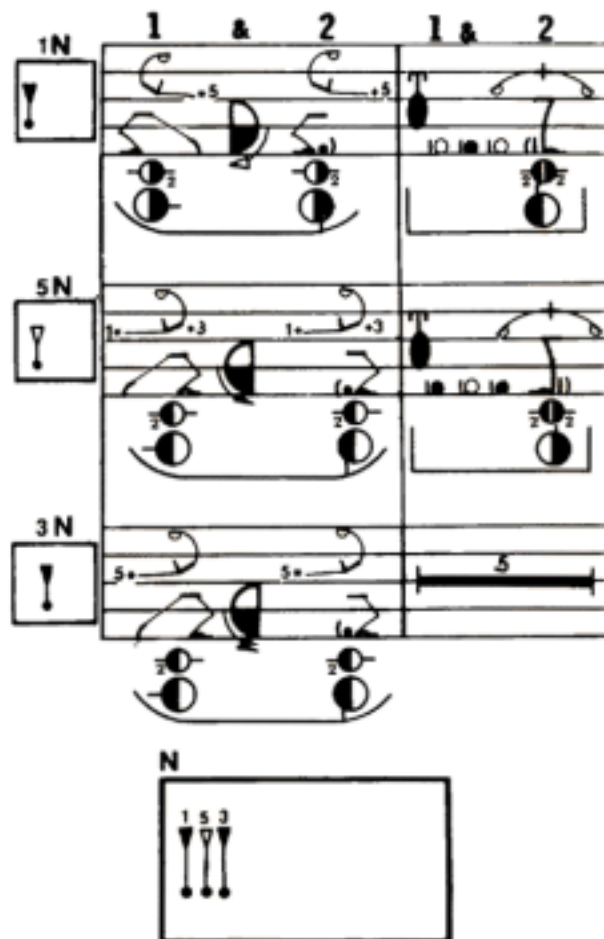
Ballroom & Disco

Below is an example of the Charleston from the 1920's.



Writing Group Dance

When more than one dancer moves at a time, as in "pas de deux" (dance for two) or in group dances, the notation for each person is placed on a separate staff line. The movements for each dancer are coordinated under the same counts, placed above the first staff with numbers. If many dancers move in unison, their movements are written only once, on one staff line, which shortens the group dance manuscript greatly. Large pattern stages are written at the bottom of the page, showing the interaction of the dancers. Group dance scores in Sutton DanceWriting have the same advantage of instrumental scores in written music:



Sutton Movement Writing & Shorthand

is a complete movement notation system for recording all body movement. The system includes five sections:

1. **DanceWriting**, records dance choreography
2. **SignWriting**, records signed languages
3. **MimeWriting**, records classic mime and gesture
4. **SportsWriting**, records gymnastics, ice skating, karate
5. **ScienceWriting**, records physical therapy, movements of autistic children, body language, animal movements, and so on.

DanceWriting was invented first, taught to the Royal Danish Ballet in 1974. That same year, SignWriting began in Denmark, at the University of Copenhagen. DanceWriting and SignWriting are the most used of the five sections.

In recent years, the main focus has been on SignWriting. In 1997, SignWriting is in use in 14 countries, on the World-Wide-Web, on national USA cable TV, and increasingly involved in Deaf-hearing interaction. For more information about Sutton Movement Writing contact:

The DanceWriting Web Site
[**www.DanceWriting.org**](http://www.DanceWriting.org)

The SignWriting Web Site
[**www.SignWriting.org**](http://www.SignWriting.org)

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DanceWriting Publications



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