

ONE Neighborhood Band
Sponsored by Brian Perkins & Young Tradition Vermont

All Skate?

THIS SECTION NEEDS TO BE REDONE OR MOVED TO A DIFFERENT ESSAY.

Solo based arrangements vs. All Play?

This is a major question within traditional music. Unison melody playing allows everyone to jump in and play. Through repetition and refinement a community can establish a common interpretation of the melody. This is extremely powerful and it is the way unique local folk traditions are created. However sometimes massed unison can also be oppressive since it doesn't really encourage individual experimentation. We intend to allow both by playing arranged versions of tunes at rehearsals and at performances. At open rehearsals we will play "All Skate" arrangements with everyone piling onto the melody or arranging things spontaneously. We will also experiment with conducted arrangements in which band leaders will direct the ensemble and call out solos.

The paradox of "fiddle unison" is that it can be much more fun to play than it is to listen to. This same can be said for some collective singing styles or even group recitation of prayer, It can be very fulfilling to the participants and can be immensely important to the community but it tends to be less enjoyable to actually listen to as an audience member.

Four ways to run things.

All Skate:

Everyone plays melody, harmony, tacet or any variation that they see fit to play.

Conducted Arrangement:

A conductor calls out solos or arrangements which the rest of the ensemble executes.

Predetermined Arrangement:

A well rehearsed or written arrangement is played with no conductor.

Fiddle Unison.

Everyone plays the melody in unison with only minute variations.

Notes based on experience!!!! Arrangements which rely upon consistent personnel are doomed to failure, ONE Band arrangements should be nimble and should allow members to take an active role in creating the sound.

Members are into conducting so we should allow people to conduct.