

PIRATES' AND SAILORS' BALL

Jane Austen loved to dance! Our re-enactment of a Regency ball features a pre-ball Regency dance basics workshop, live music, an elegant historic venue and Austen-era refreshments. The theme? She had two brothers in the Royal Navy, sailors appeared in her novels *Persuasion* and *Mansfield Park*, and we threw in pirates for fun!

DRESS CODE

Dressing as historical pirates and sailors is encouraged (as is Jane-Austen clothing altogether) – but optional. If you need any tips, or would like to rent an outfit, please get in touch. Otherwise, researching Regency portraits, historical pirates and pictures about the Royal Navy (helpful search terms include Lord Nelson, 1812 Royal Navy, etc) will give you a pretty good idea of what to look for. If you just want to dress in modern clothes, that's fine too!

WHAT IS REGENCY DANCING?

Though a number of dance forms were popular in the Regency, the one that predominated was country dancing, which is nothing like modern ballroom dance. For one thing, there was no lead or follow. Also, you're dancing in groups rather than just with your partner. Together the dancers form patterns (taught by the Dancing Mistress, who teaches and walks through each dance, and prompts you during the music) with addictive tunes that range from lively to stately or romantic. The tradition is that everyone changes partners after each dance, so nobody is left out – and we're a friendly and welcoming group! Even if you are new, people will ask you to dance.

No partner or dance experience is needed, but the pre-ball basics workshop is prerequisite for those newer to English Country Dancing. It also serves as an excellent refresher if you haven't been out in awhile. The workshop is friendly and fun, no matter what your skill level. All welcome!

Again, historical clothing is optional, but warmly encouraged. You can put together your own Regency look using your own closet (look up Regency portraits and fashion plates), rent from [Malabar](#) if you feel like splurging (and they give us a discount), or ask us: we have gowns, breeches and men's shirts for rent in the \$20-35 range.

RECOMMENDED FOOTWEAR

Low-heeled, sturdy shoes are best for this dance form. Leather or suede soles are best, but old, well-worn rubber can work. It's good to bring two or three pairs on the day of the workshop and ball, so that you can figure out which works well for you. *Please note that high heels will not be permitted on the dance floor.*

VENUES

Afternoon – Dance workshop: [Trinity St Paul's Centre](#), 427 Bloor St W, one block west of Spadina subway on the south side of Bloor.

Evening – Ball with live music and refreshments: [Heliconian Hall](#), 35 Hazelton Ave in Yorkville

SCHEDULE

3.30-5 – Fun and friendly pre-ball dance workshop (required for dancing at the ball if you are newer to English Country Dancing, and a great refresher if you haven't been out lately), at [Trinity St Paul's](#).

5 - 7 – Break – Go and enjoy your dinner!

7 – Evening registration and dressing at the [Heliconian Hall](#). Please allow plenty of time for signing in and changing. *Please note that street shoes and boots must be left at the door.*

8 - 10.30 – Dancing by the fire to live music with elegant refreshments!

COST

Ball package (includes both afternoon workshops, ball and refreshments): \$55 / \$45 students and seniors. **Ball-only tickets** for experienced English or Scottish Country Dancers (available only by prior arrangement): \$35 / \$30. If you're not sure where your experience level fits, please check with me. Pre-registration is required.

HOW TO REGISTER

Fill out the registration form and send it via post with a cheque or money order, or send your form as an attachment along with an electronic bank transfer. *Please note that you are not registered unless both registration and payment have been received.*