

# Irish stepdance

A tour to Ireland

# Irish step dance

- ▶ Irish stepdance is generally characterized by a stiff upper body and quick and precise movements of the feet.
- ▶ It is performed solo or by groups in most places with large Irish populations and in competitions all over the world.



# Tradition

- ▶ Dancing is an important part of the Irish civilization and can be divided into social and performance dances.
- ▶ Irish step dancing followed the evolution of the Irish traditional music and dates back to the pre-Christian Ireland.
- ▶ It was influenced by other European dances, especially the quadrille dances.
- ▶ It was spread in Ireland between about 1750-1900 and during the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was spread to Australia and North America and the first Irish step dance classes were held.



# Body

- ▶ Hands: usually straight to the ground or kept to the upper body.
- ▶ Legs: moving rapidly and precisely - they are used to create beautiful rhythmical percussions.



# Shoes

## ► Hard shoes:

The hard shoes are similar to the tap shoes but are made with fiberglass tips. Each shoe has eight striking surfaces: the toe, bottom, and sides of the front tap and the back, bottom, and sides of the back tap (the heel). The same hard shoes are worn by all dancers, no matter the gender or the age.



## ► Soft shoes:

Ghillies: They are similar to ballet slippers and are made of black leather. They are made to make sounds again. They are worn by female solo dancers and group dancers.

Reel shoes: they are worn by male dancers and are similar to oxford and jazz shoes. They are made with black leather and have fiberglass heels that dancers can click together.



# Steps

- ▶ Fast trebles
- ▶ Drum
- ▶ Double trebles
- ▶ Back click & turning click
- ▶ Running trebles
- ▶ Bicycle
- ▶ Butterfly
- ▶ Rock move
- ▶ Scissors
- ▶ Entrechat
- ▶ Birdie

# Videos

- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgGAzBDE454> -> classic Irish step dance
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeQJ25XtM-Y> -> Irish modern step dance

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End*