

To the Earth - Music Suggestions

Music Choice in a Nutshell:

Tribal fast movements are done almost exclusively to 4/4, 2/4, and occasionally 8/8 or 8/4 rhythms. You want even tempos in counts of 4 – if you don't yet know anything about counting music, think – do you want to go 1-2-1-2 or 1-2-3-4 in your head? Then it's probably okay. If you want to go 1-2-3 1-2-3, or don't have any idea what to count, you'll have problems doing fast movements to it.

Slow movements may be done to any slow rhythm, and occasionally to some faster music with melodramatic melodies (ATS folk call this "dramatic slow" music). It's much less limited by the count of your music.

If you're dancing by yourself in your living room, feel free to try out different rhythms and approaches. No reason you have to stick to a formula all the time. Most important - when picking music, there's no substitute for listening to it and loving it yourself; you can dance to anything, whether it's on our list or no.

"Traditional" Tribal Music:

This music was totally made for tribal bellydance – nice, even drum beats, beautiful "traditional" sounding instruments, very easy to dance to. All of these bands release good tunes, with a mix of things that work for slow or fast dancing.

- Helm / Fat Chance Bellydance
- Solace
- Gypsy Caravan
- Children of Paradise
- Dead Can Dance (ironically, while not intended for dancers, I find a lot of their work perfect for our style)
- Turku
- Raquy & the Cavemen

Definitely Not "Traditional" Tribal:

This is music that works for tribal bellydance but wasn't designed for us. It's sometimes more challenging, but some of it's so much fun it's impossible to *not* dance to it. *Some of the things April plays in classes (note that these are really imprecise categories)...*

Hip Hop / Club / Just Plain Weird

Either poundingly fast or dramatically slow

- Chemical Brothers (especially "Galvanize" – fabulous pounding 4/4 rhythms)
- Crystal Method
- Beta Band
- Bassnectar
- Pentaphobe
- Maduro
- Lisa Gerrard
- Vas
- Nomad
- Amon Tobin
- Assemblage 23
- Orbital
- Balkan Beat Box
- Gogol Bordello

Bhangra / Indian Fusion

Nice fast 4/4s, with occasional weird tempo shifts

- Panjabi MC
- Midival Punditz
- MC Sultan
- Amanpreet Kaur
- Bally Sagoo
- Sukshinder Sinda
- Bhangra Knights
- DJ Gem

American Pop

Very reliable 4/4 rhythms

- The Church
- The Cure
- Eleni Mandell
- Rusted Root
- Dead Can Dance

Middle Eastern Pop

More complex rhythms, but beautiful sounds for dramatic slow pieces

- Nitin Sawney
- Natascha Atlas
- Khaled
- Tarkan
- George Abdo
- Oojami
- Issam Houshan
- Karim Nagi (Turbo Tabla)

Medieval / Other Traditional

A mix of sounds – some very appropriate to dance, others much more complex

- Corvus Corax
- Wolgemut
- Clannad
- The Chieftans
- Djinn

Here are some other peoples' ideas that you can give a shot:

- Soundtracks to: Labyrinth, the Dark Crystal, Last of the Mohicans, Cirque Du Soleil, Moulin Rouge
- Beck
- Thievery Corporation
- Sia
- Zero7
- Imogen Heap: Headlock, Hide and Seek
- Tori Amos
- NIN
- Ministry
- Sisters of Mercy: Cry Little Sister, This Corrosion
- 80's: Erasure, Devo (workin in a coal mine is FUN to dance to!), Prince, Berlin (Riding the Metro)
- B52's
- Beyonce
- Shakira
- Parliament/Funkadelic
- The Time
- Zapp
- Janet Jackson's early stuff
- Bob Dylan (you try not to move to Slow Train Comin'!!!)
- Flux Information
- Marilyn Manson
- Ganga Giri