



On Pointe



Dance History Unit Studies

Irish Step Dancing is primarily performed in competitions, public performances, or other formal settings. It is characterized by fast footwork, hands rigid at the sides, and a lack of arm movement.

There are two forms: soft shoes, called *ghillies*, and hard shoes, which are made of fiberglass to make the sounds louder.

American styles of dance such as clogging and tap were most likely influenced by Irish step dancing.

On Pointe, the CSD Dance History Unit Studies is a regular feature of the Claire School of Dance curriculum, providing students and parents the context for the appreciation of dance in all its forms.



Classroom Activities

- rhythmic footwork
- Free dance to Irish music
- *Flying Feet* (book)



You can see Irish soft shoe dancing here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtnjd08c2JI>

You can see Irish hard shoe dancing here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEJeaC5x76I>

