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# Irish Dancing and Music



Irish dancing is a traditional form of \_\_\_\_\_ that has been part of Ireland's culture for centuries. It involves precise \_\_\_\_\_ and rhythmic movements, often performed to the accompaniment of Irish \_\_\_\_\_. This dance style is known for its quick steps and high kicks, while the upper body remains largely \_\_\_\_\_. Dancers wear shoes that are similar to ballet slippers for soft shoe dances and hard \_\_\_\_\_ for dances that require tapping. One of the most famous aspects of Irish dancing is the \_\_\_\_\_, a competitive festival that showcases the talent of dancers from all age groups.

The origins of Irish dancing can be traced back to the Druids and ancient Celtic \_\_\_\_\_, who celebrated festivals and religious rites with dances. Over the years, it has been influenced by various \_\_\_\_\_ and invaders, including the Normans and the English. Despite these \_\_\_\_\_, it has retained its unique characteristics and continued to \_\_\_\_\_.

In the 19th century, dance masters traveled across Ireland to teach these dances to the \_\_\_\_\_, ensuring the tradition was passed down through generations. These dance masters were highly respected in their communities and were crucial in keeping the tradition \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ performance in 1994 marked a turning point for Irish dance, bringing it to a global audience and sparking renewed interest in this art form. Today, Irish dancing is not only a crucial part of Irish heritage but also a competitive and highly disciplined \_\_\_\_\_.

Irish dancing continues to evolve, incorporating modern \_\_\_\_\_ while maintaining its traditional roots. It serves as a vibrant expression of Ireland's culture, history, and community spirit, connecting \_\_\_\_\_ people around the world with their heritage.

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|------------|----------|--------|----------|-------|----------|------------|------------|
| elements   | cultures | tribes | shoes    | Irish | music    | stationary | influences |
| Riverdance | people   | sport  | footwork | alive | flourish | feis       | dance      |