

France Bourque-Moreau

Status: Active
Specialty: Children dances
Range: International



France Bourque-Moreau has been active in Canada and abroad teaching folk dances for children and conducting special seminars to train school teachers in this field for more than twenty-five years.

Her current repertoire includes hundreds of dances and singing / games from all parts of the world especially designed and adapted to various age and experience levels. Ms. Bourque-Moreau also puts emphasis on the French and French-Canadian repertoire, which is widely used in the Canadian school curriculum.

She has been a regular consultant to the Montréal School Board and has helped in the production of two long play records containing French-Canadian songs and dances as well as a similar repertoire representative of the various ethnocultural groups in Montréal. This material is used in the Montréal School Board music and dance program at the elementary school level.

France is the author of *Je Danse mon Enfance* (I Dance my Childhood) published in 1979 by FLDQ in Montréal and now in its fifth printing. The book contains some 80 dances as well as useful tips on teaching, with emphasis on rhythms, formations, cultural background and psycho-motricity. The book is also approved by the Québec Board of Education. In 1983, she co-authored with Michel Landry *La Danse d'Inspiration Traditionnelle au Primaire*, which suggests a pedagogical approach to teaching folk dance in elementary schools and groups the dances in relationship to holidays, rituals and trade guilds. It also looks at creative variations of traditional dances.

France is a founding member of *Dance and the Child Int'l*, chairperson of *Danse-Education-Folklore du Québec*, a provincial organization that regroups educators using folk dancing in schools. DEFQ was responsible for setting up a special children's folklore workshop program, *Les Enfants Autour du Monde*, first as part of the Drummondville World Folklore Festival and now held annually in Lachine, near Montréal. She has been active in the ORFF music education movement and was President of the Québec Chapter of *Orff Music for Children Canada* and former secretary on the national executive. She has conducted lectures and courses across North America, Western Europe, Australia and Japan. She also researched and notated several French-Canadian dances of the Saguenay region that were published in *Danses et costumes régionaux au Québec* (FLDQ, 1977).

For fifteen years she performed with the folkdance ensemble *Les Gens de Mon Pays* with whom she toured Europe and North America. In the performing field, Ms. Bourque-Moreau has choreographed French-Canadian dances for *Les Gens de Mon Pays* and many other performing groups in Canada and abroad: *Les Réveilloneux* (Fredericton, New Brunswick), *Les Blés d'Or* (St. Paul, Alberta), *Komenka* (New Orleans, Louisiana), *Khadra* (San Francisco, California), *AMAN Folk Ensemble* (Los Angeles, California), *Carol Maddocks Dancers* (Sydney, Australia), and *Folkloristisch Danstheater* (Amsterdam, Netherlands).

In the summer of 1984 and 1988, she taught French-Canadian folk dances at the annual *Folklories* (gathering of French choral groups) in France. In October 1989 she returned to Australia as a guest specialist under the auspices of the *Australian Association for Dance Education* (now *Ausdance*). She has made special presentations on folk arts programs for children during CIOFF International folklore festivals and conferences including Orlando and Milwaukee (U.S.A.), Zielona Gora (Poland), Rättvik (Sweden) and Ilan (Taiwan). In 1998 she was part of the Canadian official delegation to the Unesco Cultural summit held in Stockholm.

France has been vice-president of the Conseil québécois du patrimoine vivant (Québec Living Heritage Council) and is on the Board of la Société du patrimoine d'expression du Québec (SPEQ). She is also a regular lecturer for several Elderhostel programs in Montréal.

Her new audio CD and companion book *Danse, mon coeur danse!* featuring French-Canadian dances, rounds and songs for elementary and pre-school children was released in November 1999. France's recordings are available from France herself via her website (Bourque-Moreau Associés).