Dance Tip #6 Courtesy of jmnelson.com

Sound Levels At Social Dances

Dance is a social activity, and conversation is an important part of the event. Even so, many associate high noise levels with entertainment. Thus, sound levels at dances are often a compromise between sufficient sound for dancing and excessive sound for those desiring loud music. Unfortunately, loud music can also precipitate cumulative and irreversible hearing damage. Any noise level above 85 dB is potentially damaging, and noise above 90 dB is unquestionably damaging to hearing. Thus, sound levels at dances might also be considered an indication of the ethics of those responsible for the dance environment.

One does not need complicated technology to assess sound levels; conversation modes can provide sufficient data. The following guidelines are easily confirmed with a dB meter:

80 dB, people have to speak very loudly. 85 and 90 dB, people have to shout. 95 dB, people have to shout near the ear. 100 dB, conversation essentially impossible.

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