

Justin Russell has been in the square dance activity since 2001. He took lessons with his grandmother, mom, dad, and brother and finished learning the mainstream program in 2002. Friends from church got him to come to that first beginner dance, but no one knew it would become his passion. In June 2003, he attended his first Caller School in Tyler, TX with Jon & Deborah Carroll-Jones, Vernon Jones, and Jerry Story.

Justin has attended eleven National Square Dance Conventions (NSDC) and ten CALLERLAB Conventions. His travels have allowed him to call in over twenty states and internationally in Sweden.

Justin currently calls for Top Spinners in Eads, TN and Pistols & Petticoats in Bartlett, TN. He travels when possible calling both Modern Square Dances as well as Beginner (Party Night) Dances. Justin is passionate about teaching new dancers about the activity!

Justin is the former Chairman of the Youth Committee for CALLERLAB where the focus was on training young dancers to pick up the microphone. Because he offers a different, younger perspective, Justin has served on several panels and roundtables at the NSDC and CALLERLAB Conventions. In 2015, he became the youngest person elected to CALLERLAB's Board of Governors where he is currently serving.

In 2006, Justin spent the summer in Denver, CO calling for the Colorado Rocky Mountain Dancers, an exhibition group representing the Llyod Shaw era of dancing. During this time, Justin learned the valued history and tradition of this activity.

In 2008, Tony Oxendine and Jerry Story asked him to record for Royal Records. In October 2008, Justin went to Oak Valley Studio in Nashville to record "Free Ride" with the award winning engineer Kevin McManus. His first singing call was nominated for the Bob Osgood "Singing Call of the Year" Award in 2011. He has also had the opportunity to record for Bob Elling on Riverboat Records and Shauna Kaaria with Chic Recordings.

Justin's goal is to blend the tradition of square dancing with the twenty-first century. He graduated from the University of Memphis in May 2011 with a degree in political science. He currently lives in Memphis, Tennessee and works full time in management for a local credit union.