



INTERNATIONAL

FOLK DANCERS

TWENTY-FIFTH

ANNIVERSARY

Brigham Young University

Mary Bee Jensen, founder and director of the International Folk Dancers of Brigham Young University, began the folk dance program in 1956 when requested to enlist some dancers to perform at a local ward. Today a professor in the College of Physical Education's Department of Dance and a member of Phi Kappa Phi, she was born and raised in Provo, graduated from Park College in Missouri, and received her M.A. from BYU.



She has lived an exciting life realizing her dream to give young people opportunities for folk dancing and travel. Her eyes are always on the brightest stars in the sky, and she likes to reach higher and higher to achieve what often seems impossible.

Mary Bee is the United States' official delegate to the Confederation International of Organizers of Folklore Festivals (CIOFF). Meetings of this world congress have taken her to Hungary, Turkey, Austria, England, Spain, Finland, Italy, and Puerto Rico. Chosen to accompany the American Arts Educators tour in 1976 to Romania and in 1978 to Poland, she was also an official member of the jury of judges for the International Folk Festival "Autumn in the Tatra Mountains" held in Zakopane, Poland.

Although recognized throughout the world for her work with the International Folk Dancers, closer to home she's best known for directing 25 years of "Christmas Around the World." Listed in *Outstanding Educators of America*, she is the recipient of KSL's Outstanding Teacher Award, BYU's Outstanding Woman Award, the Alumni's Distinguished Service Award, and the Karl G. Maeser Distinguished Teaching Award. One of her favorite tributes was being honored by her hometown Provo with a "Mary Bee Jensen Day."

Mary Bee's philosophy of life is evident in the folk dance program she directs. She sincerely feels that during her life she has expe-



rienced so many excellent opportunities for growth through activities offered her that she now wants to share similar opportunities with all her "kids," as she fondly calls her students. "The More You Give, the More You Receive in Return" is Mary Bee Jensen's motto.



Delynne Butcher Peay, assistant director of the International Folk Dancers, graduated from BYU in 1975. She began dancing at age five and had her own dance studio by ninth grade. Her love of dancing continued during her college days, and she joined the International Folk Dancers and toured extensively. Delynne directed the European tour in 1977 and the Orient tour to the Philippines, Korea, and Japan in 1981. She traveled to Poland in May 1977 with the Alliance for the Arts Educators and received a research grant to study Polish dance with Marylka Klie-mek George, former lead dancer for "Slansk." Her choreographic expertise has contributed to the professionalism of folk dancing at BYU as well.



Dennis Wayne Hill, assistant director of the International Folk Dancers, graduated from BYU in 1977. He served a mission to Taiwan and subsequently acted as interpreter for the 1981 and 1983 tours to Taiwan and the People's Republic of China. His fluency with Mandarin eliminated the language barrier for the dancers in China, and they established lasting friendships there. Dennis's versatility as linguist, dancer, choreographer, and administrator has also been apparent on tours through Eastern and Western Europe and Israel. He choreographed "Teton Mountain Stomp," the Appalachian clogs, "Italian Flags," and the Ukrainian "Birch Tree Dance," directed the 1978 southern California summer tour, and was artistic director for the 1983 Florida-Puerto Rico tour. He has been Folk Dance Club adviser, and eight different times has designed Homecoming floats that have captured the Sweepstakes Award.



The Brigham Young University International Folk Dancers have danced their way into the hearts of the peoples of the world through their concerts and tours to international folk festivals. And the dream has become the reality for Mary Bee Jensen, director and founder of the folk dancers, as she has watched the group grow from its original 7 couples to the 300 dancers in the organization today. Locations that were only dreams in the past have now become realities as the dancers have performed in places like New York's Lincoln Center, Washington's Kennedy Center, every Eastern and Western European country, Israel, and the People's Republic of China, the Philippines, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong in the Far East.

It's easy to see why the motto "The World Is Our Campus" has become a trademark for the folk dance program. When December comes, however, the BYU International Folk Dancers reverse this process and bring the world to campus with their annual "Christmas Around the World" concert.

This joyful celebration of folklore and folkways traditionally welcomes the Christmas season through an exhilarating kaleidoscope of colors, emotions, dance, and music. The choreography recreates authentic traditions and cultures, and the dancing is fresh, precise, "bright, shiny and enthusiastic. . . . Folk dances from dozens of countries [are] in their repertoire and [they are] present[ed] . . . with the relentless gaiety of a color spread in the *National Geographic*." (*New York Times*)

For more than 28 years the "BYU International Folk Dancers," as they are called when they perform in the United States, have recreated such animated dances as the "Hopak" before enthusiastic audiences. Through intricate choreography and spectacular costuming, these youthful dancers bring to life scenarios from past and present with amazing accuracy. Top choreographers from several continents travel to Utah's Rocky Mountains each year to serve as guest instructors to the hundreds of BYU students who participate in the folk dance program.

From among these students, troupes of skilled dancers are selected to perform on international tours and at prestigious folk festivals abroad. These dancers have visited most of the countries they dance about, and this first-hand exposure to countries and cultures, as well as professional on-campus training help the International Folk Dancers select a gala program of authentic dances to thrill audiences everywhere.

Whether it's the soft, restful beauty of the "Chinese Ribbon Dance" or the bold, precise movements of the "Spanish Flamenco," BYU's folk dancers perform with versatility and feeling. One moment audiences are transported to the grandeur of Poland with its dignified "Polonaise Waltz," and the next they are whirled thousands of kilometers away to Israel and its vibrant, poignant "Joy of Youth."

When the folk dancers appear at the international folk festivals abroad, they become the "American Folk Dancers" and do only dances representative of our own culture, a "History of America Through Dance." The versatility of the American Folk Dancers leaves audiences applauding as they glide through an elegant Elizabethan quadrille that typifies early New England settlers and then, for a quick change of pace, perform the challenging exhibition square dance "Devil's Dream" to foot-stompin' old-time fiddle music.

Besides being talented musicians and dancers, these young people are also respected good will ambassadors. Their gracious conduct is applauded as much as their performing talent. The ability of these



BYU students to communicate nonverbally through their smiles and gestures breaks all language barriers and makes them welcome guests wherever they go. And language isn't always a barrier. On a recent tour to the People's Republic of China, each member of the troupe took turns introducing dance numbers in carefully practiced Mandarin. The Chinese audience was ecstatic!

Although friendship is the prize most coveted by the folk dancers as they meet and become friends with the peoples of the world at the festivals, their skillful dancing has won them many trophies, particularly during their tours of Europe. The Golden Ciupaga, the first place award, was presented to them after they swept all honors at the Polish International Folk Festival at Zakopane, Poland. The group also received the prestigious Press Award and the People's Prize as the most popular company in the festival. A Russian official said the BYU troupe was the best she had seen and that its technique and precision would win anywhere.



Often being acclaimed "the most popular performing group at the festival" has caused many foreign television networks to produce live broadcasts of their show. Consequently, the dancers have performed on TV in every country they have visited—on German National Television (ZDF), French National Television (ORTF), Spanish National Television (TVE), Norwegian National Television (NTV), England's BBC-TV, National TV Moscow, Korean Broadcasting Services (KBS), Taiwan Television Network (TTV)—and in the People's Republic of China every performance was televised live.

For 20 years the European continent stimulated the intense interest of the folk dancers through their festival performances. They concentrated their efforts in this fertile field of endeavor to establish bonds of friendship throughout the continent. Then in 1981 and



performances and national television exposure.

The exchange of friendship, culture, and even dance patterns make these youthful ambassadors a valuable asset to international understanding. The more the dancers give of their energies and enthusiasm, the more they receive in spiritual and mental growth. The peoples of the world have shared with these young dancers—and better cultural understanding, friendly evaluation of political differences, and genuine friendship have resulted.

The mission of Brigham Young University is to develop the total person. The folk dance program, sponsored by the College of Physical Education's Dance Department, offers academic excellence, performance opportunities—including "Christmas Around the World," football and basketball half-time shows, the Homecoming parade and Spectacular, and stateside and overseas tours—and sociability. The Folk Dance Club enjoys, among other activities, Club Nights for dancing, a formal dinner dance, snow parties, and a steak fry.

Just as the motto "The World Is Our Campus" has become a reality for the BYU International Folk Dancers, its companion motto, "Enter to Learn—Go Forth to Serve," has guided the dancers as they have toured. Through their association with the folk dance program, they are becoming better citizens of the world, appreciative of the contributions these societies make to the individual. And as the students learn to be of better service to our world family, they learn to better serve their own family, their own country, and their own guiding faith.

1983 the mystic Orient became a reality for the folk dancers as they accepted invitations to tour the People's Republic of China, the Philippines, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. The dancers were able to carry a message of peace and love to millions of people through their live per-

Brigham Young University International Folk Dancers' 25th Christmas Around the World

Program Notes

Preshow Water Concert: "Dancing Waters"

Opener *Happy Holidays:* The Brigham Young University International Folk Dancers, Dancing Waters, and Young Ambassadors invite you to join them in a holiday salute to the peoples of the world during this happiest of all seasons.

America *Western Hoedown:* Symbolic of America's energy are her round and square dances. People throughout the country join together to enjoy one another's friendship in an evening of dance and relaxation.

Teton Mountain Stomp: Inspired by western music, this dance includes energetic abandon, playful competition, and a style that has been adapted in America for theatrical productions.

Hornpipe Express; Clog Finale: From the mountains of the southeastern United States we enjoy the foot-stompin', toe-tappin', excitement of this form of clog dancing. Everyone enjoys watching and competing with fancy footwork and furious fiddlin' to prove talent.

AN AMERICAN CHRISTMAS CAROL: "I WONDER AS I WANDER."

Young Ambassadors

Japan *Hanagasa and Kasa Odori:* The flower hat dance from Yamagata in northern Japan is typical of the women's dances, done during celebrations for planting and harvest. The men's umbrella dance, used as a prayer for rain, symbolizes the use of a farmer's tools. The decorative umbrellas are particularly picturesque.

Philippines *Tinikling:* From the beautiful land of the Philippines comes the vivacious and lively "Tinikling." This dance depicts attempts by the farmers in the field to catch the "Tinikling bird" by hitting its legs with long poles.

China *Chinese Ribbon Dance:* A well-known dance of the Chinese people, the ribbon dance represents the lotus as it blooms and grows (The lotus is a symbol of purity and longevity).

Israel *Israeli Suite:* A suite of dances reflecting the moods and life of the Israeli people—sing a song of joy, dance a dance without end. This medley of Israeli dances is a modern adaptation of ancient steps and rhythms.

A PARAGUAYAN HARP SOLO: MISS SHARLENE WELLS

Mexico *El Festival De Navidad:* Christmas time south of the border is one of the most festive times of the year for our Mexican neighbors. The holidays are filled with fun music, which helps the common people throw their cares to the wind and celebrate through dance with friends and neighbors.

Tilingo Lingo and Huateque: The music and dances of the Jarochos, the people of Veracruz, combine different styles and rhythms. Note these brilliant rhythms and the intricate footwork as both men and women join together in a celebration of life.

Los Machetes: The land of Charros, Chinas, and Mariachis, the state of Jalisco since the last century has become a symbol of Mexican nationality. The charros of Jalisco are known for their high spirits and joyous grasp of life, and their folklore captures the soul of the Mexican people in its sensual music, refined dances, and dazzling costumes. The dancers close this suite with the popular "Los Machetes."

OLDE ENGLISH CAROL MEDLEY: "JOLLY HOLIDAY" *Young Ambassadors*

Scotland *Blue Bonnets Over the Water:* This dance is a competition dance for women. It incorporates the difficult steps found in Scottish Highland dancing with the lilt of the bagpipe.

Ireland *Irish Hornpipe:* Typical of Irish step dancing done today, the hornpipe represents an energetic and hard-working people. America's own clog dancing finds its roots in this popular form of Irish folk dance.

Scotland *Farewell to Auchterarcler:* This dance is typical of Scottish country dances. Done in a square formation, the dance incorporates the intricate reels and difficult Scottish steps into a favorite Highland folk dance.

Italy *Sbandieratori Flags:* The movements of the flags and costumes

represent the regions of the country, or a family crest, in a colorful display of ancient heraldry. The most skilled men were chosen for their expertise in wielding the sword and the spear.

A TRADITIONAL GERMAN CHRISTMAS CAROL: "O TANNENBAUM"

Young Ambassadors

Germany/Austria *Schuhplattler:* The man slaps his thigh and claps his hands to achieve the extremely complex syncopated rhythms while dancing with his partner.

Spain *Spanish Flamenco:* The fascinating rhythms of the castanets make it an art to perform the "Flamenco." The men dance "zapateado" and "furruca" movements, while the women contrast it with "paso doble" movements of their hips and shoulders.

A POLISH CHRISTMAS CAROL: "THE HEAVENLY SOUNDS PROCLAIM" *Young Ambassadors*

Poland *Polonez:* The "Polonez," a colorful and formal promenade, often began an evening's activities in Poland. It is a dance that displays the grandeur and pride of the Polish people, and only the aristocracy was originally allowed to perform it.

Krakowiak: Originated in the southern part of Poland in the "Krakow" region, the "Krakowiak" is now known in every region of Poland and has become its most vibrant and exciting dance.

Lithuania *Lithuanian Medley:* In a special salute to "Mr. Folk Dance America," Vyta Beliajus, we present a medley of popular Lithuanian dances. This medley includes excerpts from "Malunas" (The Mill), "Jonkelis" (Little Jack), and "Kubilas" (The Tub).

A FAVORITE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN CHRISTMAS CAROL: "CAROL OF THE DRUM" *Young Ambassadors*

Czechoslovakia *Vrtak:* With a wonderful variety of turning movements found in western Czechoslovakia, where couple dances predominate, the turning dances usually work up to a tremendous speed, particularly in the mountain villages of that country.

Romania *Dama-Sirba:* From the Romanian plain, these dances are performed in circles and lines. Their rhythmical arm balance is binary, their movement lively, with cross-steps in place and through space.

Calussari: This dance, nearly 1,000 years old, is known to be the most dynamic Romanian dance. A southern Romanian men's dance performed with sticks, stamping, and clicks of unusual virtuosity, it is performed during religious holidays for the fertility of the land and as a protection against crop disease.

Hungary *Verbunk:* This men's dance is used as a test of fitness for Hungarian military service. Since the army offered excitement, travel, and often better living conditions, it was desirable to become proficient in the Verbunk.

Szatmari Karikazo: Few Hungarian women's dances are as full of energy, speed, and brightness as is this one. It originates in the northeastern part of Hungary from the county of Szatmari.

Tuberosa: The quick musical accompaniment puts the dancers "on their toes" to perform this unique and lively dance. The Hungarians often enjoy singing along as they dance.

SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS FROM THE UKRAINE: "CAROL OF THE BELLS" *Young Ambassadors*

Ukraine *Dance of the Birch Tree:* A women's dance with graceful, gliding movements tells a story of waiting for the spring to come. The women reverence the sleeping birch tree with a smooth and uninterrupted continuity of illusion.

Hopak: Reflecting the pulse of the Ukrainian people, vibrant with a love of life, this dance is one of strength, skill, and emotion. Many people call this the national dance of the Ukraine.

Celebration of the Bells In a final salute to our special feature, "Dancing Waters," we combine the senses of sight and sound to the majestic "Bells of Saint Mary's."

Finale *Happy Holidays—Reprise:* May the International Folk Dancers join together in wishing you the "Merriest of Christmases and the Happiest, Happiest of Holidays."

Postshow: "Dancing Waters"

Acknowledgments

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The International Folk Dancers is a non-profit performing group. It derives revenue from admission fees, student fees, and charitable contributions. Contributions can be made by a variety of methods.

For more information contact the Dean's Office, College of Physical Education, 212-Richards Building, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602.

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