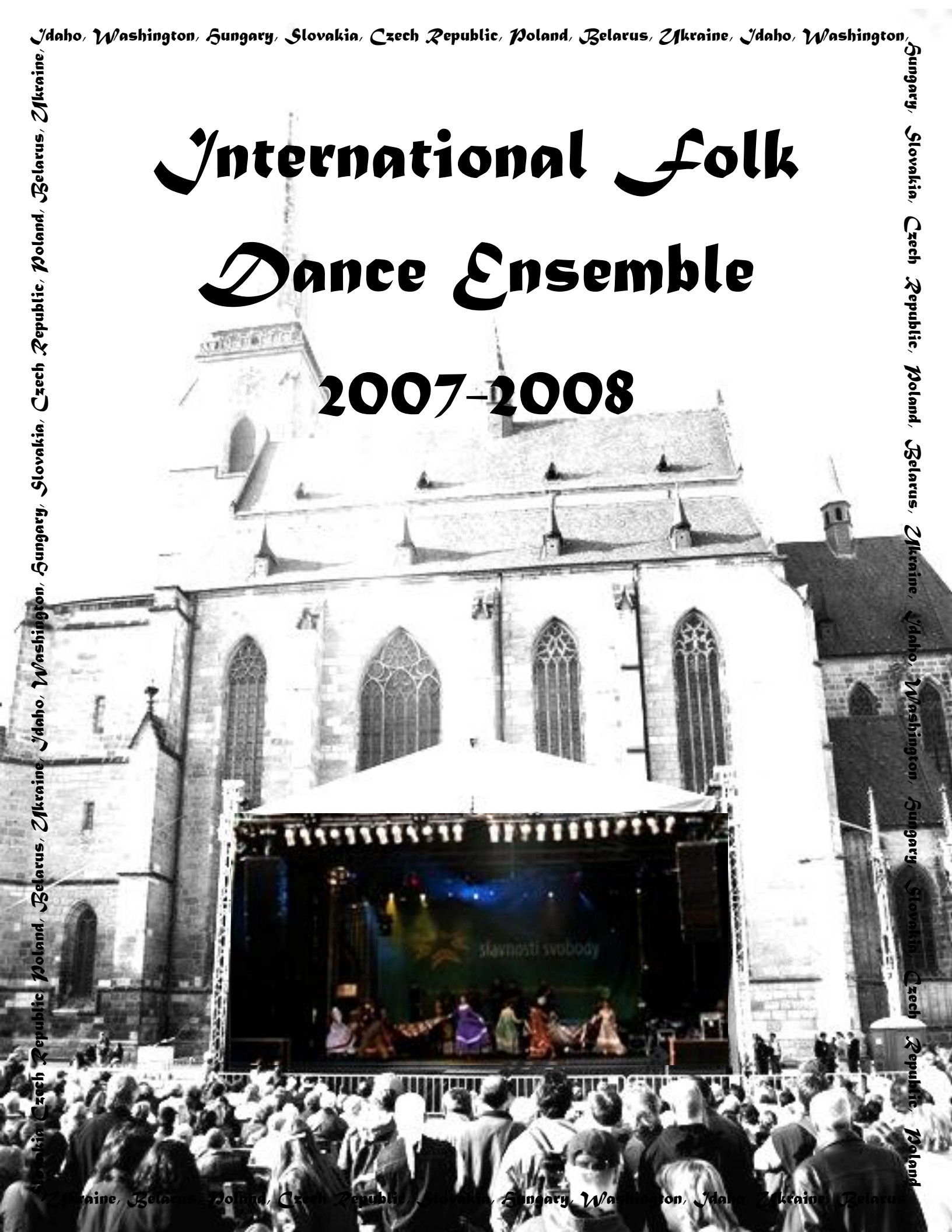


Idaho, Washington, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Idaho, Washington,

International Folk Dance Ensemble 2007-2008



Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Idaho, Washington, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Idaho, Washington,

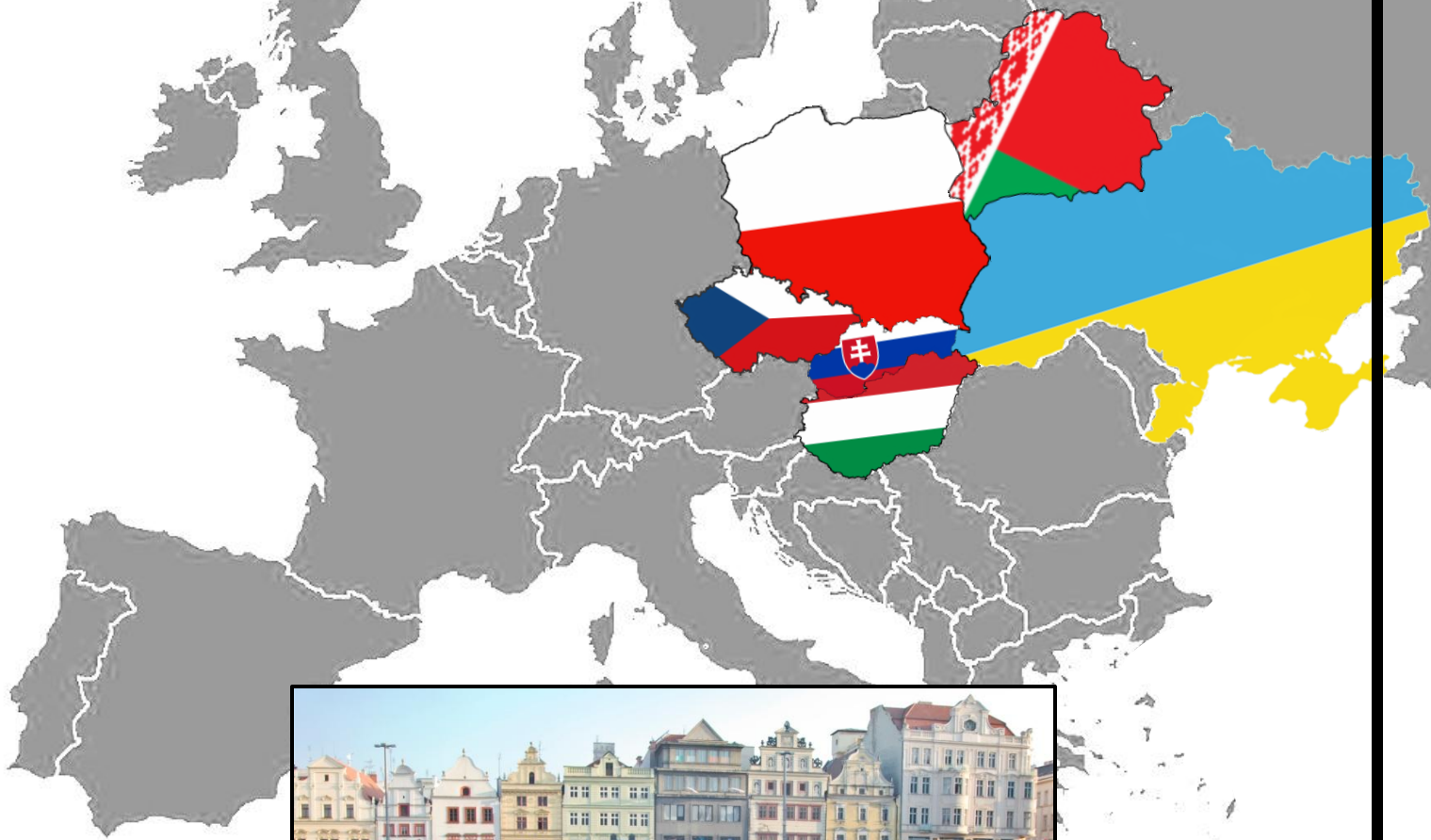
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Ukraine, Belarus, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Washington, Idaho, Ukraine, Belarus

Table of Contents

International Folk Dance Ensemble 2007-2008.....	1-2
Tour Participants & Leaders	3
Mid-Semester Tour Map	4
Mid-Semester Tour Itinerary	5-6
Mid-Semester Tour History	7-15
Extended Summer Tour Map	16
Extended Summer Tour Itinerary	17-21
Extended Summer Tour History	22-49
Breaking News	50-51
Mail Room	52-54
Write Me A Song	55-56
Contact Information	57-58

Brigham Young University's
International Folk Dance Ensemble
2007-2008



Idaho, Washington, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Belarus, Ukraine



Tour Participants & Leaders

Dancers (Women)

Traci Aker
Cami Burton
Amy Carpenter
Amanda Dance
McCall Fisk
Jennifer Garrard
Kellianne Huntington
Janneke Marquez
Erin Maxwell
Rachel Mecham
Courtney Pearson
Bethany Rawcliffe
Sarah Sanderson
Katie Shepherd
Lyndsey Wulfenstein

Dancers (Men)

Jon Bay
Jon Brame
Michael Christensen
Sam Griffiths
Biff Jones
Josh Lamb
David Marriott
Justin Morgan
Stephen Ord
Thomas Rawcliffe
Colin Slade
Matthew Thatcher
Rustin Van Katwyk
Ben Watson

Musicians

Deborah Bailey
Jesse Christopher
Natania Dirlam
Adam Grimshaw
Michael Hinckley
MacKay Olson
Robby Sorensen

Technicians

Michelle Crosland
Rosie Jones
Jul Lamb
Danny Marquez

Leaders

Ed Austin
Vickie Austin
Lynn Elliott
Andrea Elliott
Sara Lee Gibb
Ron Nuttall
Leslie Nuttall
Mark Ohran
Marianne Ohran
Delynne Peay
Erlend "Pete" Peterson
Mark Philbrick
Sandra Rogers
Jonathon Wood

Artistic Director
Chaperone**
Cultural Advisor**
Chaperone**
Dean CHHP, Tour Ambassador**
Dance Medicine Trainer
Chaperone
Technical Director
Chaperone**
Tour Manager*
BYU Associate International Vice President, Tour Ambassador**
University Photographer**
BYU International Vice President, Tour Ambassador**
Tour Manager**

Mid-semester Tour Only*
Extended Tour Only**

Mid-Semester Tour: Washington and Idaho



ITINERARY

FEBRUARY 22 – MARCH 2, 2008

Friday, February 22 **Provo to Meridian, Idaho** **382 miles/5hr 30min**

7:30 am Depart for Boise

8:00 pm Performance – Meridian Middle School (1206 seats)

Presenter Martin Thorne Productions

Saturday, February 23 **Richland, Washington** **300 miles/4hr 42 min**

8:00 am Depart for Richland

3:00 pm Performance – Matinee, Hanford High School (676 seats)

7:30 pm Performance – Hanford High School (676 Seats)

Presenter Richland Stake

Sunday, February 24 **Vancouver, WA** **233 miles/3hr 44min**

9:00 am Church at the given ward near host family

12:00 pm Depart for Vancouver

3:30 pm Arrive at Multnomah Falls

7:00 pm Fireside – Vancouver, WA Stake Center

Monday, February 25 **Vancouver, WA**

10:00 am Assembly – Hearthwood Elementary School

12:00 pm Visit the Portland Temple grounds

7:00 pm Performance – Skyview High School (1105 seats)

Presenter Vancouver Alumni Chapter

Tuesday, February 26 **Bremerton, WA** **163 miles/2hr 41min**

9:00 am Depart for Bremerton

2:00 pm Bremerton Health and Rehabilitation Center - Community Outreach

7:30 pm Performance – Bremerton High School (1175 seats)

Presenter Bremerton, WA Stake

Wednesday, February 27 Everett, WA 57 miles/1hr 43min

9:00 am Depart for Everett
11:00 am Free time: Pikes Place Market and Wharf
7:30 pm Performance - Everett Civic Auditorium (1,500 Seats)

Presenter Marysville, WA Stake

Thursday, February 28 Port Angeles, WA 91 miles/2hr 31min

9:00 am Depart for Port Angeles
1:00 pm Assembly - Franklin Elementary School
1:40 pm 2nd Assembly - Franklin Elementary School
7:30 pm Performance - Port Angeles High School (1166 seats)

Presenter Port Angeles Stake

Friday, February 29 Olympia, WA 120 miles/2hr 32min

9:00 am Depart for Olympia
7:30 pm Performance - Washington Center for the Performing Arts (984 seats)

Presenter Lacey, WA Stake

Saturday, March 1 Tukwila, WA 64 miles/1hr 10min

8:00 am Depart for Tukwila
3:00 pm Matinee Performance - Foster Performing Arts Center
7:00 pm Performance - Foster Performing Arts Center
9:00 pm Depart for home

Presenter Seattle Alumni Chapter

Sunday, March 2 Provo, UT 17 hrs.

4:30 pm Arrive in Provo

Day 1: Friday, February 22, 2008

Meridian, ID

Presenter: Martin Thorne Productions

Performance: Meridian Middle School

By Lyndsey Wulfenstein

The day began at 7a.m. We all met at the Richards Building ready to load the bus, say farewell to our friends and loved ones, and head off to “Scenic Idaho!” Adam Grimshaw started off our morning with a prayer and spiritual thought. He led our group in a scripture study focusing on 3 Nephi 12:13-16, which talks about “The Salt of the earth.” Ed made a comment about how we are a covenant people, and Ron Nuttall, our athletic trainer, said that salt in respects to the body provides electrolytes. Without it our systems would be out of balance. The comment was also made that salt not only adds to, but also enhances the flavor of food. These were all good thoughts to apply to life: remembering our covenants, working for balance, and adding spice to life!

Then there was quiet time. We all tried to catch up on the sleep we had been deprived of the night before (last minute packing). Needless to say, Ed got a hold of the microphone for half of that time! The rest of the morning was spent sleeping, reading scriptures, writing in journals, telling jokes, and reading our favorite book *Poland!* We stopped in Twin Falls, Idaho for lunch. Right after loading the bus to continue our journey, we took a group picture at the back of the bus with all of us sporting our dental/doctor masks, which were given to us by Ed to help us avoid spreading disease.

We arrived at Meridian Middle School around 3 p.m. and unloaded our luggage from the bus. Our trusty tech man, Mark Ohran, was already there setting up. Our presenters Martin Thorne and his wife then greeted us. At 5 p.m. the Thornes’ provided a lovely dinner for us comprised of shrimp cocktail, croissant sandwiches, mini wraps, pizza, veggies, pudding, and cookies! We then had a pow-wow with Ed and Delynne. They instructed us in the ways of striking the set, what to expect after the show, and how to prepare to meet our host families.

The show went well with no major mess-ups, except for the finale where Matt Thatcher was supposed to end our dance, “Last Night”, with a back flip with his body in an X-out position. As he was trying to maneuver his specialized trick, Jon Brame created quite an obstacle, and caused Matt to slip, where he ended instead with a “Napoleon Dynamite” run off stage. After the show, Janneke Marquez met a group of 10-year-old girls who were there for a birthday party. The birthday girl’s mom brought them to the show in a Limo! They took quite a fancy to the twin towers, Ben Watson and Robby Sorensen. In response they played and sang Happy Birthday for the excited little 10-year-olds. During the show, Denise and Tucker Johnson (Folkdance Alumni) provided great snacks for us, which included grapes, apples, bananas, tangerines, trail mix, etc. Some special people that attended the show were some members of the Special Olympics. Also some more familiar faces were in attendance including Folkdance Alumni Joe Bowen, Brandy and Ben Blaser, Chris Wells, and Amber Jensen.

One of the fun host family experiences included the brownie and ice cream adventure of Delynne, Kellianne, Courtney, Traci, and Lyndsey. As they commenced in visiting with their host family their host mom provided a “snack” comprised of a huge helping of Reese’s ice cream and two large rich brownies. Although their eyes were the size of flying saucers, these ladies graciously accepted the offering and diligently ate all their portions (except for Delynne who couldn’t eat her second brownie). Needless to say, their bellies weren’t very happy afterwards.

Day 2: Saturday, February 23, 2008

Richland, WA

Presenter: Richland Stake, Chris Myers

Performance: Hanford High School

By Sam Griffiths

We were up early from our show in Meridian the night before. Everyone was on time and we were on the road without any hiccups, until our tech truck broke down about an hour later. The entire ensemble was on the bus and united their faith in a prayer hoping that the Lord would pull things together. We were a little scared since we had a matinee in Richland and we didn't know exactly how long it would take us to set up tech before the show. When we finished the prayer, one of the phones rang saying that a U-haul was on its way. So we unloaded the truck in the hopes we could squeeze the tech and costumes we needed on the bus, only to unload what we had put on and load it again. Then the U-haul came and we just transferred the rest directly to the U-haul and were on our merry way. We started our matinee a little flustered about a half hour late, but it was a good show. The Lord answered our prayers in a strong way and made it possible for us to have our show in due time and with full tech.

After the show we headed straight out to dinner where we had some wonderful spaghetti (put on by the Richland Stake who also hosted us that night) and hopped back on the bus to make sure we made our next show in time. Considering we had a slightly hectic afternoon show getting ourselves on stage so fast and that our dinner was basically a whirlwind, we were surprised when the first half of our night show turned out amazing. All of the performers felt good about it and Ed came into the men's dressing room to tell the men how well the show was going. Sam Griffiths was casually putting on his socks when the music for French Canadian came on and he realized he was extremely late. He ran into the wing and threw on his shoes while he watched Lyndsey Wulfenstien 'hold her own' in the midst of a couples dance. He made it on stage only to have his shoes come untied in which state he persisted for the rest of the dance.

"Rapper Sword" was even worse. Maybe it wasn't worse, but it definitely was considerably different than it was choreographed. The men got a little lost when someone pulled one of their figures in the wrong order and a slight mayhem ensued. Despite the repeating of certain steps and the holding of certain formations far longer than normal Deborah Bailey just kept plugging away at her fiddle. The dancers were all over the place, but somehow despite not being able to get their swords to hold together they got through the rest of the dance and ended together. It took everything the dancers could muster to not burst out laughing while still on stage. Overall this was a great day and that's not just because we were able to celebrate Cami's birthday while on tour.

Day 3: Sunday, February 24, 2008

Vancouver, WA

Fireside: Vancouver, WA Stake Center

By Adam Grimshaw (actually by Jon Bay)



Our first Sunday on mid-semester was memorable for all of us. We were divided into three separate groups and our host families were instructed which ward to take us to. It was a great way to spend time with more people and not overwhelm one ward.

The young women's president in one of the wards thought it would be a wonderful idea to invite all of the girls from the group to Young Women's to speak with them. Soon after that she decided it would be fun to have the boys from the group come in too, and shortly thereafter invited the Young Men as well. It was decided that the best thing would be for

each member of the group to stand up, tell a little about themselves, and bear their testimonies. It was a memorable meeting. At the end of the meeting one of the leaders asked if the group would sing. They were happy to oblige, but to their dismay there were only 3 boys and about 12 girls – needless to say the boys ended up singing the melody.

After church was over, the three different groups converged at the stake center and we headed off to Vancouver with fond memories of Richland. In route to Vancouver we stopped at Multnomah Falls. Everyone loaded off the bus for a 10 minute view of the lush green scenery and breathtaking falls, and then piled back on for the remaining drive.

When we arrived in Vancouver we were met by Dennis Hill, a former folk dancer who was our host in Vancouver. Upon arrival, he escorted us into the stake center where he had been slaving all day to make his famous clam chowder for us. Dennis did everything he could to make our stay in Vancouver comfortable and enjoyable. During dinner, which was quite delicious, he had old folk dance videos playing. He also took the time to wander around and talk to each of us while we were eating.



Shortly after dinner we were introduced to our host families and headed home with them. We are grateful for all that our host groups do for us and the friendships we are able to forge while we are on tour. It was a great Sunday.

Day 4: Monday, February 25, 2008

Vancouver, WA

Presenter: Vancouver Alumni Chapter, Dennis Hill

Performances: Hearthwood Elementary School & SkyView High School

By Amy Carpenter

We started the day with an elementary school show at Hearthwood Elementary. Justin Morgan's sister-in-law is the PTA president and arranged it all for us. We danced most of the small dances including: Indian- "Nadiyaan", "Rapper Sword", "Three-hand Irish", "Verbunk"- Slovakian Hat dance, after which eight children and teachers did their own hat dance. The band played a spectacular "Fox/Orange Blossom Special", and then we finished with clogging- "Last Night". The school had a large Russian speaking population, so Jesse Christopher and Thomas Rawcliffe translated Ed's narrations. The students were excited to see them speak in Russian and cheered really loud for our dances. Two of the classes, one a third grade class and the other fifth grade, wrote us thank you notes, here is one:

*Thank you for coming and performing at our school, all for Free!
I am a Mormon and I will probably be going to BYU when I am older.
I really enjoy your talents. My favorite dance was the hat dance and the finale.
Thanks again for going to an extra place and performing for us.
Good luck, and again, Thank you!!!*

From: Danielle Lorange

After the show, we went to the Portland Temple, where the grounds keeper, a former folk dancer, led us on a small tour of the grounds and atrium of the temple. The temple is usually closed on Mondays, but he made an exception for us. Inside the atrium, we had our devotional, led by Mike Hinckley. We also sang "Peace Like a River" and "A Child's Prayer".

Then we went to Skyview High School where we performed that night. We had dinner at the school, just in the commons area where Dennis brought us gourmet pizza, veggies, and cookies. Robbie had a handstand contest with the cheerleaders, which he won, of course. Matt also showed off his mad tumbling skills. The stage set up was a little stressful and took longer than we were used to. As a result, we were blocking until 6:45 when the show was supposed to start at 7. Needless to say, we didn't start until 7:15, but the show went well. The crowd was great, mostly because they were our host families. Since we had already stayed a night with them, they had someone to cheer for. It was great.

One cool story is about a young man from Lithuania in the audience. His name was Ignus. At the end of the show, Dennis had Ignus' mother write a six-word reflection: My son must have this light! What she meant was that she wanted for her and her son to join the church so they could always have this feeling in their home. Hopefully her dream will come true and then Ignus will come to BYU and join the folk dancers.

Some other six-word reflections that we got were:

Men of honor, women of light
Toe tapping fun, Infectious JOY, Unforgettable!
Unbelievable talent, faces of light, Inspiring.
Music and Dance lifting my soul.
Young people to emulate, GO COUGARS!!!
Beyond expectations, these kids can DANCE!
Brought to our home Christ's Light!
I felt buoyant, lifted, enlightened, inspired!
WOW! Clapped and smiled all night!

Day 5: Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Bremerton, WA

Presenter: Bremerton Washington Stake, George Eads

Performances: Bremerton High School

By Robby Sorensen

Today the Folk Ensemble traveled to the beautiful city of Bremerton, Washington. The performance was to be at Bremerton High School's spacious auditorium. Having arrived there with plenty of extra time, the stage was easily set up in time for the show. The weather couldn't have been better, so many of us found ourselves outside on the Bremerton soccer field playing Frisbee, while some of the dancers practiced "Western Wildfire". It's the sunshine and fresh air that keeps our spirits alive during our tours. Adam, Deborah and Robby from the Mountain Strings band played some old bluegrass tunes for an old folks home nearby, where they received the warm welcome we have all grown accustomed to receiving from everyone on this tour. Many of the men and women had tears in their eyes as they listened to Deborah sing the old favorites they knew so well.

Later on that day, many of the dancers and musicians gathered around as Biff Jones, and one of the African American kids from the school rocked out to some tunes. We shall never forget the surprise of watching Ben Watson yodel to the guitar. Some of us just couldn't stop laughing. Dinner was ordered in from Olive Garden, and was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all. One of the staff members at the school finished our Italian ensemble with an opera song, a capella, followed by a spirited applause by all.

The performance went on as planned, and was carried out without major mistakes, although there were some that are worthy of mention. Before Slovakian, Bethany Rawcliffe usually helps Steve Ord change into his costume, but tonight it was different. Courtney Pearson decided to help, which caused Bethany and Steve to be ready 32 counts early. After this speedy change, Bethany and Steve "wind-milled" onto the stage 32 counts early, realized the mistake, and "wind-milled" right back off. During "Southern," Janneke Marquez was surprised when Jon Bay stepped on, and ripped her dress. After feeling a draft, she thought it appropriate to exit the stage to keep

in line with the BYU honor code standards. Jon Brame had the same thought when his pants started to fall off of his waist while dancing in the front. All things considered, the show was a success, and the crowd let us know it.

Day 6: Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Everett, WA

Presenter: Marysville, WA Stake, Melodie Knopf

Performance: Everett Civic Auditorium

By Lyndsey Wulfenstein & Courtney Pearson

Our group took a ferry to Seattle. Before hand, Lynne Elliott had told us about "Pikes Place Market." Many of the members of our group went and found lots of interesting things to see, including the main attraction, which was a big fresh fish market. There were some interesting fish there! As some of us were looking at the huge crabs, one of the men there told us we should hold them, so we did! Afterwards when we wanted to wash our hands, he told us that the only way we would be able to wash them was if we caught one of the fish that they were throwing. Apparently that's another feature of the market - the men throw the huge fish to the salesmen when something is ordered. Jon Brame and I (Courtney) decided to take the challenge, and both were successful in catching the flying fish, after which the man let us use his sink to wash our hands! We also found many unique shops along the way, including a Polish pottery shop. Fancy that! I (Lyndsey) went with Biff, Rosie, and Cami to one of the first original Starbucks Cafés, because Starbucks originated in Seattle. We had hot chocolate of course!

That evening we had a show at the Everett Civic Center. It was the nicest venue we had performed in so far on tour. It had a nice wide and deep stage, which the dancers loved! We had a great audience of about 1,000 people. The first couple of shows we had done so far had been sold out, but this one wasn't because the auditorium was so huge! There was a neat spirit there during the performance. As the group sang "Go Ye Now in Peace," a lot of the performers had tears in their eyes as they sang about God the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ. Afterwards, while shaking hands with the audience members we could tell they had been touched by the tears in their eyes and the sincere looks on their faces.

Day 7: Thursday, February 28, 2008

Port Angeles, WA

Presenter: Port Angeles Stake, Patrick Downey

Performances: Franklin Elementary School Assembly, Port Angeles High School

By Traci Aker

We met at the Marysville Stake Center to depart for Port Angeles for day seven of our tour. The bus ride was two and a half hours (that includes the half hour ferry ride). We made pretty good time, as we were able to make a forty-five minute stop at Safeway to eat lunches and get any "necessities" that we may have thought we needed.

From there we went on to our first show of the day-an assembly at Franklin Elementary. It was a great show and experience. The line-up went as follows: "Nadyiaan" (Indian), "Rapper Sword" (English), "Three Hand" (Irish), "Širákový"-Hat Dance (Slovakian), the hat game, "Orange Blossom Special" (band number), and Last Night (American Clog). Delynne was the "narrator" or emcee, as Ed was sick. On a side note, he quarantined himself from us this entire day, as he didn't want to endanger or contaminate us. I have to say that I was feeling very "Ed-deprived" by the end of the day. Well, the show went very well. We danced on a carpeted gym floor, and from what I could observe, there were not any major mess-ups. The kids were wonderful and especially enthusiastic. Actually, when we were both unloading and reloading the truck with our cases, there were several little kids that came out and helped. They really were amazing! During the show, and especially during "Last Night", the little kids were totally dancing along with us. After the show, we took pictures with the kids,

gave and received some “high (and low) fives”, and really just got to know a lot of the kids. As I said before, it was an amazing experience.

From there, we went to Port Angeles High School, which was our evening venue. The auditorium seats 1166 people, and while our show didn’t sell out, there was still a very nice turnout. So, we arrived at the school and were met with both a pleasant and interesting surprise-the lighting was basically done, because there were no outlets to plug our lights into. The plugs and our lights were not compatible. So, you could say that we had the quickest set up (strike) yet! Once everything was all set up and everyone had a place to dress, we were able to get a bit of rest. There were folk dancers, folk musicians, directors, and “techies” spread out all over. Everyone was trying to catch up on sleep, homework, conversation, etc. Of course, there were also people taking care of their physical ailments by going to see our fabulous and amazing trainer Ron-some of us really wouldn’t be able to survive without him.

At around four o’clock, we were all called to dinner. This was a very unique dinner, as most of us were able to meet our host families at dinner. The presenter had arranged it that way so we could meet and eat dinner with our host families. Then they could also watch for us during the performance. For dinner we had the yummiest dish-Hawaiian haystacks with a huge assortment of desserts-many (if not all) were homemade! We were truly spoiled! It was a really neat experience to be able to meet our host families before the show. It kind of made the show more fun because we were actually dancing for someone that we knew in the audience. That would probably explain why the show went as well as it did.

After dinner, there was the usual after dinner and before show frenzy. The ladies were madly dashing about trying to get braids, make-up, and costuming done, while the men in a more lazy fashion dressed and did their small amount of makeup prep-but that’s another story. Then we had a brief devotional, during which we received notes and a quick message from Ed. Then, as tradition, we went on stage and did our pre-show warm-up with Ron. It was full of skipping, jumping, laughter, and, of course, Ron’s famous jumping jacks! Our “word of the day” or words of inspiration to get us pumped up before the show was “pow-pow-power wheels!” Odd-I know, but it was fun and gave us all a good laugh before the show started. We all got into our beginning positions and began the show. The curtains opened and we were able to see a sea of eager faces awaiting the first steps that were made. The show as a whole went well and there were very few bloopers, which included the loss of a skirt on stage, a missing Hutzul hat, and a pair of missing pants for the men.

After the show many great things were said about the show-it was a success and once again, many hearts were touched and made full, including those of the dancers. Some of the comments made came from a Ukrainian woman and her daughter. It goes as follows: I, Colin, walked out of the auditorium where I met Elena and her daughter, Olga. Both were dressed in traditional Ukrainian costumes; Elena in a heavily embroidered shirt made by her grandmother and Olga in Hopak garb, complete with the flowers and ribbons in her hair. Elena was so impressed with the show. She could not stop saying how happy she was to see our dances, particularly Hutzul. She said it was easily her favorite. Most impressive of her comments, she said that seeing our show made her coming to the United States worth it. I didn’t have time to talk to her in detail, but I can only imagine the sacrifices and difficulties she faced in order to come here. What a blessing that our show brought her the peace and comfort she needed. Another experience was shared about a woman who was in tears after the performance because she said that it was an overwhelming spiritual experience. Jesse, our drummer, was able to speak with a woman from Russia, in her native tongue (she had only been here in the United States for about a year) about the experience who was feeling similar emotions. For her, words-in both Russian and English could not explain how “full” she felt. She told us that she didn’t have the vocabulary to describe how wonderful the performance was.

Of course there were also some fun stories about meeting little kids after the show that wanted autographs, pictures, and handshakes. So many people were impressed by how fun and professional our performers were.

It was really a great day, full of experiences that many of us will never forget. We truly are blessed to be able to be on this tour, associating with such great people, and having the Spirit with us. Truly, words are not enough to express how blessed we really are. Hopefully, this has helped to paint a small picture of another great, successful day of our Washington-Idaho mid-semester tour 2008.

Day 8: Friday, February 29, 2008

Olympia, WA

Presenter: Lacey Washington Stake, John Liddell & Jason Hakes

Performance: Washington Center for the Performing Arts

By Erin Maxwell

“Welcome the Leap day, 123 LEAP, 123 LEAP, 123 LEAP!!” Ed Austin started off our morning in Port Angeles in the most chipper of moods, and we were excited to see what adventures would await us on this glorious day of leap that only comes but once every four years.

We enjoyed a scenic drive over the Tukwila bridge and through the evergreens always present in this state. Arriving in Olympia a couple hours earlier than planned, the group killed a few hours eating lunch at a local Safeway. Traci Aker and Matt Thatcher were found pampering themselves with pedicures at a nearby salon, a much-needed escape as tour was coming up on its 8th day.

Erin Maxwell went on a search for the infamous patches that all folk dancers covet. She didn't have a lot of time, and was heard running into every store, inquiring for patches. Apparently she wasn't specific enough, because four stores and a register 19 at Wal-Mart later, she found herself staring down some cigarette patches instead of a Washington souvenir like she'd intended. Needless to say she didn't buy any patches that day, and we'll just hope no one noticed that the crazed girl frantically looking for the patches was from BYU!

Many people commented that this was the best venue yet as we arrived at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts. We found a stage with four levels of seating, so Ben made sure we blocked our lines with absolute precision knowing every turn and LEAP would be seen from above.

The next few hours were spent in a practice room for some, working out clogging numbers for summer tour. Others were seen sprawled doing homework, many reading the infamous *Poland*, and a few enchanted souls heard the Washington rain calling to them, and they ventured outside with umbrellas and trench coats to frolic and LEAP in the wonderment of precipitation.

Dinner was provided most uniquely by our presenter John Liddell who led us a hop, skip, and a LEAP away from the venue to Happy Teriyaki where we sat according to the food we had ordered. Afterwards we sang to all of the cooks and cashiers. Ron mentioned later that a man came in and was taken aback by the number of us singing in the restaurant, and his comment was simply “wow.” Ron pointed out that we are always on stage, always being watched, and you never know how that man might now react if missionaries come to his door.

Getting ready for the show was back to work as usual, with a small break to bring Ed and Ron back to their younger years. Jon Bay's hair stuff just happened to end up on our fearless leaders instead and we all saw what Vickie fell in love with. Ron was singing “You Ain't Nothing But a Hound Dog” and asking out girls left and right!

The curse of the Slovak skirt was passed on to Amanda Dance, but somehow Amy didn't get rid of it and both skirts fell off during the dance... funny.

After the show one old lady said that this was the best night of her life in 15 years, and an usher who'd been working for the past 16 years said this was the best show to come through. Another group of old ladies, the

self proclaimed ‘Angels,’ cried and cried to Bethany trying to describe their feelings. One woman, Agnes, knew good Old Mary B. and just couldn’t say enough about the performances.

Host family moments for the night included Deborah playing her violin with a young aspiring 6-year-old star, and Justin breaking through his host family’s bed with his feet as he leaped upon it during a game of cross-fire. Too much host family food?! Luckily his host dad was resourceful and promptly went down stairs to cut a piece of wood to fill the hole.

Day 9: Saturday, March 1, 2008

Tukwila, WA

Presenter: Seattle Alumni Chapter, Lee Hilton

Performance: Foster Performing Arts Center

By Josh & Jul Lamb

We started the day in Olympia where we met the bus at 7:45 a.m. at the Lacey Stake Center to drive to Tukwila. We arrived at the Foster Performing Arts Center at about 9:00 am where we began loading in. This venue was small but elegant. Load in went smoothly for all and before we knew it everything was up and ready for sound/light checks.

Our presenter was Lee Hilton from the Seattle Alumni Chapter and they did a great job with hosting us and setting up the shows—both were sold out.

The men’s dressing room was in a multipurpose activity room that was almost completely covered by padding. We were asked to not wear our shoes on the padding which made costume changes interesting. The set up of this room—unsurprisingly—inspired most of the men to have a massive wrestling tournament.

During sound checks, one of the outlets was loose, so, when bumped, it would make a popping noise. We tried to fix this by rebooting the system, but because it was rebooted incorrectly, sound problems continued during the first half of the afternoon show.

Our first show, beginning at 3:00 pm, went well for the most part. Danny Marquez, our sound technician, had some difficulties during the first half and had to reboot the SFX during intermission. This erased all of his pre-settings so he had to do all the second half mixing by hand. He did a great job.

The performance itself went well with only the normal minor mishaps. During Slovakian, Josh Lamb and Ben Watson decided that it was Ben’s turn to win “Širákový”. When Ben jumped into the men’s arms to be thrown into the air, he jumped short and then the men had a difficult time throwing him because of the added weight. It was really funny.

After the first show we gathered together for a brief sacrament meeting because of our long bus ride on Sunday. Justin Morgan, Natania Dilram, and Courtney Pearson bore their testimonies before the sacrament was passed.

After sacrament meeting we ate a delicious dinner of pork sandwiches, salad and fruit before we had to get ready for a 7:00 pm show. The technicians ate quickly so they could fix and recheck all the sound so everything would run smoothly during this second show.

Our night performance, which was the last of this tour, went very well. Everyone danced with all their hearts and everything went well with tech. During “Hutzul”, the men decided to give a quick kiss to the ladies during the attack and retreat portion. This surprised the ladies greatly and the whole feel of the dance became

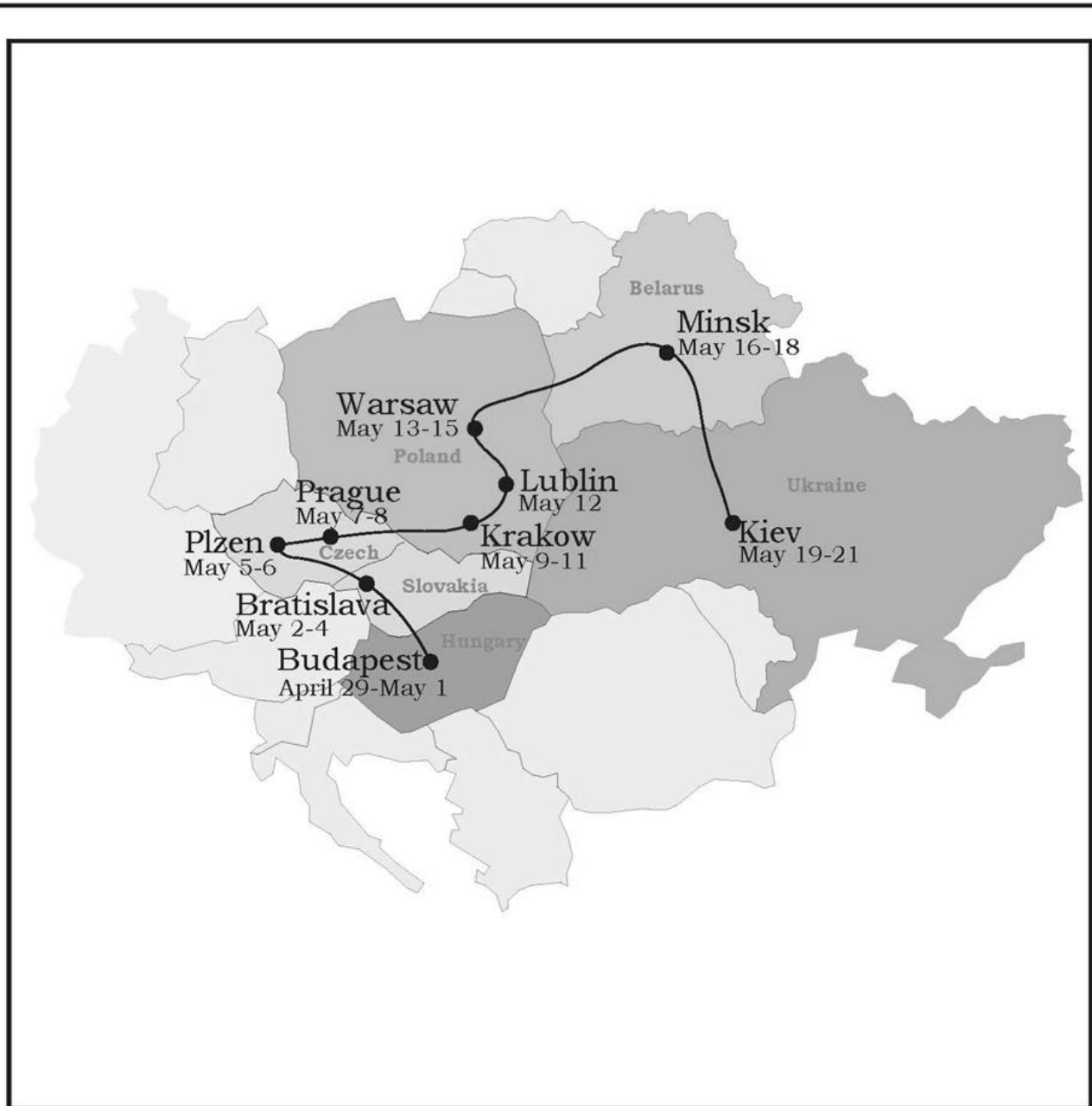
very fun and interactive. During “Southern”, Mike Christensen, who was not in “Southern”, switched in so he could dance with Amanda Dance. Also during Southern, the dancers and the band had a winking contest—the band claims they won. During “Gypsy Aires”, Deborah Bailey did a different introduction without telling anyone. Also during “Gypsy”, Jesse Christopher noticed that Ken Goephert, Mark Ohran’s assistant, had changed out his cajon with a black box as a prank. Jesse was able to change it back before he needed it. During “Orange Blossom”, at the very last fast part, Jesse and McKay Olson decided to go extremely fast... so fast the rest of the band had to do all they could just to keep up. At the dance off portion of “Last Night”, Robby Sorensen and Jesse Christopher from the band danced across the stage with the rest of us. We all had a great time with this show.

After the show we quickly took down the set and loaded the truck in record time. Many people took a quick shower in the locker-room and then we loaded onto the bus by about 10:00 pm to drive home. When we got on the bus, there was pizza provided by the presenter that we all enjoyed before falling asleep.

Day 10: Sunday, March 2, 2008
Homeward Bound!

The wheels on the bus go ‘round and ‘round, round and ‘round, ‘round and ‘round.... kind of like the pioneer children sang as they walked..... and walked..... and.... well, you get it. We rode the bus for 17 hours all night long and into the next day. Ron and Ed were both sick and everyone slept. Oh, and people slept too. Tour = complete.

Extended Summer Tour: Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Belarus, and Ukraine



ITINERARY

APRIL 28 – MAY 22, 2008

Monday, April 28 **Provo to Budapest, Hungary**

8:00 am Depart for SLC airport
11:35 am Depart Salt Lake City for Atlanta
5:13 pm Arrive in Atlanta
6:15 pm Depart for Vienna

Tuesday, April 29 **Budapest, HU**

10:05 am Arrive in Vienna
1:00 pm Travel to Budapest
5:30 pm **Reception for the group at Ambassador Foley's Residence**

Wednesday, April 30 **Budapest, HU**

10:00 am Walk up the hill to the castle
4:00 pm Joint rehearsal with the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble
7:25 pm Ambassador Foley to introduce show and present Ambassador's Award for Cultural Diplomacy
7:30 pm **Performance w/Hungarian State Folk Ensemble at Hungarian Heritage House (450 Seats)**

Presenter Hungarian State Folk Ensemble
Contact Lazlo Keleman

Thursday, May 1 **Budapest, HU**

AM/PM FREE TIME-
House of Terror (\$10 per person)
Statue Park
Great Synagogue
7:00 pm **Fireside**

Friday, May 2 **Bratislava, Slovakia** **126 miles/3hr30min**

8:00 am Depart for Bratislava
11:30 am Arrive in Bratislava centrum/old town
7:00 pm **Performance w/ Lúčnica at Istropolis (1300 Seats)**

Presenter Lúčnica
Contact Marian Turner

Saturday, May 3 **Bratislava, SK**

9:00 am FREE TIME-drive to Vienna for FREE TIME
3:00 pm Return to Bratislava
4:00 pm Arrive at SL'UK's Park for Majales
6:00 pm Perform for Majales
7:30 pm Worskhop in Petrzalka at the Dance House

Sunday, May 4 **Bratislava, SK**

9:30 am Church with local branch
2:00 pm Watch SL'UK Performance
6:30 pm Fireside at Conference Room in Bon Bon Hotel w/ members of Bratislava Wind Octet

Monday, May 5 **Plzen, Czech Republic** **257 miles/6hr**

AM Depart for Plzen-stop at Lidice on the way
2:00 pm Visit to Mayor Plzen (*Mayor of Pilsen, Mr. Pavel Rodl*) at Town Hall
6:00 pm Performance-The Square of the Republic (*Part of the American Liberation Celebration*)
Travel back to Prague

Presenter Municipality of Plzen

Tuesday, May 6 **Prague, CZ**

AM/PM FREE DAY-
Walking tour
Castle as a group
Charles Bridge

Wednesday, May 7 **Prague, CZ** **57 miles/1hr30min**

7:30 pm Performance-Municipal Library of Prague

Thursday, May 8 **Prague, CZ**

7:00 pm YSA Interactive Evening-Prague Chapel

Friday, May 9 **Krakow, Poland** **312 miles/8hr30min**

8:00 am Depart for Krakow
2:30 pm Visit Auschwitz
10:00 pm Arrive in Krakow

Saturday, May 10**Krakow, PL**

9:00 am FREE TIME- Shopping and sightseeing in central town square

6:00 pm Performance-Nowa Huta Cultural Center (600 Seats)

Presenter Centrum Kultury Dworek Bialopradnicki

Contact Jolanta Kogut

Sunday, May 11**Krakow, PL**

AM Church with local branch

PM Sightseeing: Visit Castle

PM Fireside-in Katowice**Monday, May 12****Lublin, PL****188 miles/5hrs**

7:30 am Depart for Lublin

7:30 pm Performance w/ Jawor at Lublin Agricultural University (600 Seats)

Presenter Jawor Folk Ensemble & Lublin Agricultural University

Contact Jerzy Horbowski

Tuesday, May 13**Warsaw, PL****105 miles/4hrs**

AM See Old Town Lublin before departing for Warsaw
Depart for Warsaw**3:00 pm Meet with Ambassador's Wife (Mrs. Ashe) at the residence****Wednesday, May 14****Warsaw, PL**

AM FREE DAY-

Film-History of Warsaw

Walk to Ghetto Monument

National Art Museum

Museum of the Army

2:00 pm Visit Warsaw Historical Museum

6:00 pm Workshop for Danuta-Ochota Cultural Center**7:00 pm Fireside-Warsaw Chapel****Thursday, May 15****Warsaw, PL**

7:30 pm Performance-Sowinskiego Park Amphiteater (2000 Seats)

Presenter Ochota Cultural Center

Contact Danuta Jampolska

Friday, May 16 **Minsk, Belarus** **334 miles/15hrs**

AM Depart for Minsk

PM Arrive in Minsk

Saturday, May 17 **Minsk, BY**

7:00 pm Performance-Minsk Philharmonic (700 Seats)

Presenter Minsk Philharmonic Society (subset of Ministry of Culture)

Contact Tamara

Sunday, May 18 **Minsk, BY**

AM Church with local members

PM Potential get together with members for a social musical gathering or a meal

Monday, May 19 **Kiev, Ukraine** **322 miles/15hrs**

AM Depart for Kiev

PM Arrive in Kiev

Tuesday, May 20 **Kiev, UA**

AM FREE TIME

12:00 pm Lunch at the Puzata Khata restaurant

7:30 pm Performance-National Technical University of Ukraine "Kiev Polytechnic Institute"
VIP performance only.

Presenter US Embassy and the National Technical University of Ukraine

Wednesday, May 21 **Kiev, UA**

FREE DAY-

See Old Kiev. Dome Church area walking tour

Lavra - in the city

Bus to Bobyar Monument - Gulley - where all Jews in Kiev were shot

WWII Museum

See Monasteries

7:00 pm Fireside-Ukraine Chapel

Thursday, May 22

Return to Provo

10:50 am Depart Kiev for JFK, NY

2:05 pm Arrive in JFK

7:30 pm Depart JFK for Salt Lake City

11:20 pm Arrive in Salt Lake City

11:45 pm Drive to Provo

12:45 pm Arrive at RB

Day 1: Saturday, April 26, 2008**Provo, UT****By Mike Christensen**

Early Saturday morning was when our tour really began. The whole team woke up early and we all met up at Ron and Leslie Nuttall's house to have a wonderful breakfast! After we stuffed ourselves with great food, played outside a bit, and had bum wars on the trampoline, we all gathered inside for a devotional and meeting to kick-off the beginning of our tour! Ed had selected four people to get up and share their feelings: Jon, Traci, Ben, and Janneke. Jon and Traci who had not experienced this kind of tour yet shared their feelings of excitement and what they expect it to be like as well as the importance of service and selflessness during our tour. Janneke shared with us some stories from last year and the fun they had, as well as the spiritual experiences and how she was able to get the most out of our tour. Ben read a part of his journal to us about past tours and the feelings he had in those moments about the people, and the countries, and what being a part of folkdance meant, especially performing for other people in different countries. I think we can all agree that the Spirit was strong and we all got really excited for the kinds of experiences that we would have on our tour.

After our meeting at Ron and Leslie's, we all headed on over to the RB to have a rehearsal as that night we would be having a PAC showcase to show our friends and family the show we would bring with us to eastern Europe. We practiced our Hungarian dance that we would be doing with the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble when we got to Budapest. We also went through a couple dances, polished up a few things, and worked out a few costume issues. After that we broke for lunch and met back at the RB at 3:30 to get everything ready for the show that night.

We were all a little nervous and anxious to perform in front of our friends and family as we hadn't danced in a while due to finals week, and we had only had one dress rehearsal a week previous. Nonetheless we were excited to show everyone what we had worked on for the last few months. As far as the show went, there were a few screw-ups and costume problems. One of the main problems was the fact that when French Canadian started, there were almost no girls dressed and ready. A few guys like Biff, Jon Brame, and Mike Christensen wandered around by themselves smiling at each other as they had nobody to dance with. It wasn't until a fourth of the way through the dance that the rest of the girls and Thomas and Rustin trickled on stage. As a team we might have said it wasn't the best show we could have done, but the audience loved it, nonetheless, and was excited for us to have the opportunity to take this show to Europe. We also had the opportunity to sing a few of the songs that we would be singing in the devotionals: that really brought the Spirit into the room. It was a long and busy day, but we had Sunday to rest up before we left on Monday to Europe!

Day 2: Monday, April 28, 2008**Provo to Budapest, Hungary****By Matt Thatcher**

Europe... Here we come!!! Our meeting time at the Richards Building was 7:30 am and we all arrived ready and excited to go to Europe. We left by 8:00 am, which made us on time, which can be a rare thing. Right when we got on the bus, Josh Lamb opened the overhead compartment, which broke, and almost hit his wife Jul on the head. Luckily, she had cat-like reflexes. Deborah Bailey gave the devotional, Robby Sorensen gave the prayer, and we sang "There is Sunshine in My Soul Today." For flying, we went from Salt Lake City, UT to Atlanta, GA. We then flew from Atlanta to Vienna, Austria. There was quite a bit of turbulence which fortunately caught some of the members on the team in the bathroom. Namely Lyndsey Wulfenstein and, I believe, Jen Garrard. The service on the flights was very good and, after our first flight, we found out our pilot Dale Johnson used to be a BYU Folk Dancer! On our second flight, Ben had a few missionary experiences. One was with a lady and the other was with a male flight attendant. During the flight, Katie Shepherd came to sit with some friends and spilled a glass of water all over her and Matt Thatcher. Fun times. The flight was long, but we had movies,

music, food, and hopefully sleep to help pass the time. While flying, the clouds were beautiful, and then, when we saw the ground of Vienna, we were all amazed by the beauty. We are in for a real treat and some wonderful life long memories. ☺

Day 3: Tuesday, April 29, 2008
Budapest, Hungary
By McCall Fisk

Hey! We are in Vienna today and the countryside is beautiful! We are all up in the second level of the double decker bus, and it's awesome! One thing that I noticed when we first got here was that everywhere smells like smoke. The air quality is not so great and everything is in German. Plus it's about 2 am our time and 10 am Vienna time. So we are all feeling a little weird, but in high spirits!

We just stopped at Auto Grill for lunch! The food was delicious, but I'm not going to lie...I was a little nervous to get anything because everything is in German and who knows what could be in it? Ha, actually no it was great food and very delicious!! But here we use the Euro for currency and \$1.00 is worth .63 Euros. Anyways, I'm not quite sure how all the math works, but I spent \$16.00 on lunch for a plate of Penne Pasta and a roll. Crazy? But it was delicious!!

Well, we are on our way to our hotel in Budapest, Hungary to freshen up for a reception with Ambassador Foley. So far I am having a blast! I love Europe! Oh my goodness?! The ambassador's house was so gorgeous! And that was quite the experience. We were in this beautiful home where we were given drinks from a guy holding a tray of varieties such as peach, apple, orange and carbonated water. But anyways, we had to stand around with drinks in our hands just talking to all the important people of Hungary. Not intimidating at all. ☺ It felt like we were in some kind of James Bond dinner scene. They would come around with trays of little finger foods. Some that I tried and really liked or didn't like included:



1. Cracker with shrimp stuff: This was ok, until I found out it was shrimp on top. I really don't like shrimp so this item was just ok.
2. Piece of ham or bacon wrapped in this croissant roll thing with sesame seeds on top: this was very good! I had lots of these.
3. Little pieces of toasted white bread with cut up tomatoes and onions: This was very delicious!
4. Fish Death!!! They had these little round scone looking things full of a pasty white stuff and on top of that was a piece of pink, slimy, salmon-RAW- I wasn't quite sure if it would be impolite to refuse it, so I ate one anyways and almost died!! Ok, not really but it was nasty! I probably looked pretty awkward trying to eat this raw fish thing while trying to look proper and carry on an important conversation with these foreign government people.

Other than the fish death stuff, it was the most incredible experience! We also got to meet the ambassador, who is a girl, go figure. I personally felt a little out of place, because it was so extremely proper and fancy. But, it was fun to experience and will stick with me forever!

Day 4: Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Budapest, Hungary

Presenter: Hungarian State Folk Ensemble

Performance: with the Hungarian Stake Folk Ensemble at the Hungarian Heritage House

By Natania Dirlam

Still in Budapest, we started out the day by taking a group picture behind our hotel at Fisherman's Bastian. During devotional that morning, Brother Peterson shared a story about the people of Hungary and Elder Nelson. Elder Nelson had told the people that in two weeks the iron curtain would fall. Exactly two weeks later the iron curtain fell.



We were given the entire afternoon to wander around Budapest during which a bird pooped on Amy Carpenter. That evening was our first performance of the tour. It was a combined performance with the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble. Prior to the show the ambassador got up and spoke. Her speech was transcribed and here are some portions of it:

**Ambassador's Cultural Diplomacy Award Presentation
to BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble
April 30, 2008**

Good evening and thank you for joining us tonight to celebrate our common love of folk dance. This is a rare event. Two world-renowned folk dance companies are sharing the stage – the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble and the Brigham Young University International Folk Dance Ensemble.

Many here are likely acquainted with the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble's wonderful preservation and performance of Hungary's rich folk dance tradition. I would like to assure you that the Brigham Young University visitors also create a tapestry of dance woven with the finest traditional music, costuming, and choreography to showcase the cultural heritage of the United States.

The BYU International Folk Ensemble's repertoire includes music and choreography from New England, the Appalachian Mountains, the American south, and the Rocky Mountains.

Their success over the past 50 years is due not only to their American dances. They also conduct exchange programs to allow their students and choreographers to open the doors to international cultures by learning their folk music and dance traditions.

Their knowledge of Hungarian folk dance makes them an exceptional partner for the Hungarian folk dancers and helps connect American and Hungarian audiences through a common language of movement.

At this time, I would like to ask Dr. Erlend Petersen and Mr. Ed Austin to join me on stage. Dr. Peterson is the International Associate Vice President of Brigham Young University and Mr. Austin is the Artistic Director of the BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble.



Dr. Petersen and Mr. Austin, Americans who display exceptional talent and exceptional service to the goal of friendship between America and Hungary merit special recognition. I would like to recognize the Brigham Young University International Folk Dance Ensemble by presenting you the Ambassador's Award for Cultural Diplomacy.

This award recognizes those individuals and groups whose outstanding efforts win the respect of their peers and serve the Embassy's goal of deepening mutual understanding between the U.S. and Hungary.

On behalf of the U.S. Embassy community, I am pleased to confer the Ambassador's Award for Cultural Diplomacy on Brigham Young University's International Folk Dance Ensemble. I wish you and your dance troupe continued success in your mission of education and performance and cultural diplomacy.

The show that night went really well and was full of energy. It was not perfect, but it was a lot of fun and energetic. We got to interact with the Hungarian dancers as well as the musicians. After cleaning and packing up several people went out for some crepes and the rest called it a night.



Day 5: Thursday, May 1, 2008
Budapest, Hungary
By Cami Burton

After breakfast, we met at 9:30am—a little later than usual, which was much appreciated by all because it allowed for a little more sleep. In fact, Jesse Christopher and Dave Marriott enjoyed sleeping in so much that they missed the group visit to the House of Terror. We had our devotional outside in a grassy area, and then Lynn took the group on a long walk to the House of Terror. This building, now a museum, was the party headquarters of the Hungarian Nazis in 1944, then the residence of communist terror organizations between 1945 and 1956. The museum had artifacts and displays to commemorate the victims of terror and to remind us of the dreadful acts of terrorist dictatorships. Visiting the museum was a humbling and troubling experience for many of us as we were brought to a better understanding of the evils that took place there not too long ago: we were all interested to note that many of the labeled “victimizers” are still alive.

After the group visit to the House of Terror, we were on our own to tour around Budapest. Since it was May 1, Hungary was celebrating the May Day holiday. Many of us went to Hero Square where a huge crowd was gathered to celebrate. There were young-adult Hungarians dressed in traditional Hungarian dress there leading many of the festivities. They would bend over one of the trees in the square, and hand out ribbons to people in the crowd and encourage them to tie the ribbons onto the tree. When the tree was full of ribbons, they would let the tree back up. Then, they would start dancing around the trees with the crowd, holding hands in a chain formation. They would lead the crowd over to a large covered stage area where there were all kinds of performances. Ballroom dance, hip-hop, choirs, and rock ‘n roll bands were some of the performances that we saw. After one kind of performance, another tree would be bent down and the whole thing would start over again.

Every hour, the Hungarians in traditional costume would come out and dance. Erin Maxwell, Jon Brame, Mike Christensen, and McCall Fisk decided to show off and start doing our Hungarian dance for them (the one we learned to perform with the Hungarian State Ensemble last night). The Hungarian group that was about to

dance came over and started to sing along as accompaniment. By the time it was over, a huge crowd had gathered and applauded us.

Behind Hero Square, next to a large castle-compound and pond, there were tons of booths set up with food and other knick-knacks for sale. There were also some rides, like a carnival. Katie Shepherd and Matt Thatcher tried to ride a roller-coaster. This kids' ride was too small for them, and their heads kept smacking into each other and against the bars on the ride. There was an electronic bucking bronco that our cowboy Dave Marriott decided to try out. He lasted the whole ride with only one hand. He was interviewed by men with official-looking news cameras who asked him to sing a song for May Day. Of course, he chose to sing "Home, Home on the Range."

Other sites that people visited include the Opera House, St. Stephen's Basilica, the Parliament building, and the shoes monument by the river. The open market was open despite the holiday, so of course many people also went shopping for their lace, embroidery, etc.

Unfortunately our fireside that we'd hoped to have this evening fell through. However, we were excited for the opportunity to see a full performance by the Hungarian State Ensemble in the same theater we performed in with them last night. Some of us nodded off a little during the concert because we were tired after a full day of sight-seeing and celebrating, but everyone really enjoyed the concert—especially the soloist Mehk number and the other dances with men's trick steps. The dancers also appreciated the opportunity to see trained Hungarians perform authentic Hungarian dances. The band was also impressed with their musicians: Deborah Bailey even bought their book of fiddle music.

After the show, many of our group went over to the crepe shop, and the pizza shop next door, to get rid of their forint currency and enjoy their last few hours in Budapest before turning in to pack and get ready for the trip to Bratislava tomorrow.

Day 6: Friday, May 2, 2008

Bratislava, Slovakia

Presenter: Lúčnica

Performance: with Lúčnica at Istropolis

By Courtney Pearson

Day five in Europe and we took our tour to Bratislava, Slovakia. Once we arrived in Bratislava we had the opportunity to watch SL'UK, the professional Slovakian dance group, in rehearsal. Erwin, their artistic director had been with us in Hungary as well. He invited us in to watch a new piece they had been working on for just a little while. It was a piece they would be using for their new set of dances: "The History of Slovakia". Erwin kept reminding us that they had only been working on it for a short time, but it was still wonderful for us to watch and learn from.

Following their rehearsal, Erwin invited us to the SL'UK restaurant for lunch. The meal began with an order of drinks. Most of us decided to try Kofola, a soft drink presumably found only in Slovakia. Some enjoyed it, others had different ideas. There were some comments that it was almost like Coke, and others thought it was more like Dr. Pepper. But, it was one of those cultural experiences – as was the rest of lunch. Our soup was "like clam chowder without the clam" as one team member said. The main meal consisted of a thick crepe filled with chicken, mushrooms and sauce, and served with rice and vegetables. For dessert we were brought a type of apple strudel.

After checking in with the Hotel BonBon, another nice hotel, and getting our room partner, we all took a short break before getting back on the bus to load-in at our venue: Istropolis, and meet with Lúčnica, who we would be performing with. We had nice dressing rooms again, which always makes things easy. Dinner was meat

and potatoes, a favorite in these regions we have learned. Then there was a rush to get ready for the show so that we could meet with Lúčnica and plan the beginning of the show with them.

Devotional was an exciting event tonight. Eric Hosp, our tour guide from last year in France, attended the performance, as did his parents. And at devotional they presented us with some chocolates which were very much appreciated. Ron also received a treat from the team. We sang Happy Birthday to him and each of us wrote him a personal note for his special day. Earlier in the day he received a full massage, and then we finished his birthday celebration after the show with Steve performing his rendition of Happy Birthday for Ron, bringing back his old tradition once again.

Before the show we met with Lúčnica and paired up with one member that we would begin the show with. For those few minutes before the show, we stood on stage behind the curtain and were able to talk to them and get to know them and their culture better. Some of them spoke English very well, and for others it was more of a challenge, but we were very impressed and loved getting to know each of them.

When the curtain opened we were on the stage with Lúčnica while we were all introduced. Lúčnica then danced to open the show and we were able to watch them from the audience. They were amazing to watch, and we all just wanted them to keep dancing for the rest of the show so that we could watch. It was a great learning experience as well, as we got to learn how to improve in representing their culture much better by seeing them do it themselves.



After the performance a reception was held with Lúčnica, who were our presenters, Ambassador Obstinik, and the State Secretary for the Ministry of Culture, Secik. An interesting short background about the ambassador: He was actually born in the Slovak Republic and his parents immigrated to the US when he was 2 months old. He grew up in the US, but his parents spoke only Slovak in the home, which has been a great asset to him. Continuing on: These men and the directors of Lúčnica were presented with a letter from President Samuelson and a gift from the university. We were then able to mingle and eat the refreshments they provided, but we had to be careful to drink the juice and not the wine!

There was an American man in the audience tonight, who many of us had the opportunity to speak with. His name was Bill, and he's been living in Slovakia for eight years. He was very excited about our performance, and said that we were the first American group he has seen there in his time and was so amazed with the performance. To some students that he spoke with he said: "I had a religious experience tonight watching you" and told us to never doubt the energy and feeling we portray to the audience. He was not shy to say that we had touched him, and he talked with some students about the church all the way through the reception and told them that he wanted to attend the fireside we had planned for Sunday night at the hotel. Sometimes we don't realize the affect we can have on people in the audience.

One other thing we learned later about this performance was that tickets are given to the presenter to give to those they choose to give them to. For this performance they chose to give their tickets to a children's shelter so that those children would be able to attend our performance.

Before we left for the hotel, Erwin told us that he would be leaving for another responsibility that he had and would not be able to be with us at the festival and workshop with SL'UK the next day. He was presented with a BYU jacket which he put on right away with much excitement! We then sang to him one more time: "Go ye now in Peace" and "God Be with You Till We Meet Again".

We returned to the hotel where they allowed us to swim until midnight, even though the pool was supposed to close at 11 pm. And then we all slept after a fun day in Bratislava!

Day 7: Saturday, May 3, 2008

Bratislava, Slovakia

Presenter:

Performance: Majeles (SL'UK's Park)

By Jennifer Garrard

Today we met at 8:45 to go to Vienna for free time. On the way to Vienna, we bussed through three different countries: Slovakia, Hungary, and Austria. Once we made it to Vienna, we stopped as a group to see St. Stephens Cathedral. After that, we had a couple hours to walk and explore Vienna. Activities included seeing the Hapsburg palace, the Opera House, stopping at bakeries, buying souvenirs, seeing Mozart and Beethoven's homes, and as a whole getting a small flavor of Vienna.

Then it was back to Bratislava for a show. Once we arrived at the venue, Ed called a few sectionals and we were able to get ready for the show. We performed on a stage outdoors and the professional Slovakian group SL'UK performed right before we did. When it was our turn, we performed three numbers: "Appalachian", "Journey", and "Western Wildfire". There was only one major mishap when Amy Carpenter took a slip in "Wildfire", but she recovered quickly.



Next it was time for dinner—sausage fried in lard, three pieces of bread, ketchup, mustard, and the traditional drink, Kofola. Some of us enjoyed the meal more than others (seriously—some people liked it and some people didn't).

The highlight of the venue was definitely the accompanying rides, one of which we called the *Tornado Twist*. Select few of us begged for Slovakian money from Mark Ohran and Jon Wood and were able to experience pure joy.

We arrived home around 11:00 and everyone went their separate ways to do laundry, journals, internet, or scripture study. Another select few of us went to chill in the hot tub, which incidentally, was turned off. The select few included Jennifer Garrard, Katie Shepherd, Steve Ord, Danny and Janneke Marquez, and Jul and Josh Lamb.

Day 8: Sunday, May 4, 2008

Bratislava, Slovakia

Fireside – Bon Bon Hotel with members of Bratislava Wind Octet

By Sarah Sanderson

The day started with a journey to the center of town where we had Sacrament meeting with the local Slovakian saints. After Ralf did one of his amazing bus maneuvers, we got off the bus and followed the missionaries to a small street, and then to the building where church was held. Walking in, we saw a guard dog and lots of stairs. A few stories up, we turned a corner and were met by racks of Ensign and New Era magazines and a few pictures of temples, so we knew we were where we needed to be. Our large group took over the small conference room in which Sacrament meeting was held. A few people were lucky enough to get some translating

earphones for the meeting. But those of us who didn't still felt the same spirit of the people sharing their testimonies. Brother Peterson, Ed, Adam Grimshaw, and Rachel Mecham were the few from our group who bore their testimonies with help from the kind Branch President. We sang the hymns, or at least attempted to, in Slovak. We sang "Come Ye Children of The Lord", "Now Let Us Rejoice", and "O God the Eternal Father."

There was a lady at church who is the oldest member of the church in Slovakia. She bore her testimony and told us of her baptism in 1939, which, fortunately, was just in time as the Soviet occupation of the land required the Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith to take the missionaries out of there. She then talked about how their small group of members befriended the Secret Police during the Soviet occupation, to ensure that they could keep having their meetings. We found out later that Jon Brame's grandfather was a missionary in Slovakia at that time and was involved in her conversion. What a small world! It was touching to see the faithful members come from far and wide to a building not at all like those that we're used to at home, and also to see their efforts in teaching us and encouraging us to reach out to others.

After church we had a few free hours to wander around Bratislava. We started out near the castle and went our separate ways. Searching madly for patches, my group went through the Hlavne Namestie Main Square and we also went to St. Mark's Cathedral. Oh, and that bridge near our meeting place was an engineering feat! Remember?

Following our sight seeing, we went back to the hotel to prepare for our fireside. But not without dinner first! My favorite part about that dinner was the chocolate cake that was served... and also talking to Brother Peterson. How fun to have him on tour with us!

The fireside began at about 6:30. Well, it was supposed to start then, but the people were socializing when they arrived and so we didn't start till later. But the fireside was successful just the same. Ed said a couple of times that that was the best we had ever sounded. It helped that during one number, we had a guest French horn player from the Bratislava Wind Octet, Peter. His daughter dances in Lúčna. He was very gracious and gave us a stack of his CDs. The fireside was also the point at which Sandra Rogers joined our group. In between the songs, we heard from Courtney, Rosie, Sam, Jon Brame, and McCall. The firesides are definitely a highlight of touring for me. Music brings the spirit so quickly, and since we were using music to serve and uplift the people, the spirit there was overwhelming. It was a perfect end to a perfect day.



Interesting facts:

- 120 total members currently in Slovakia
- there are about 3-4 baptisms a year
- 'father' in Slovak is 'otce'
- Anyone remember how to say 'cranberry' in Slovak?
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Slovak: Cirkev Jezisa Krista Svatych Neskorsich Dni

Day 9: Monday, May 5, 2008

Prague, Czech Republic

Presenter: Municipality of Plzen

Performance: The Square of the Republic (American Liberation Celebration)

By Rachel Mecham

We left our beautiful hotel Bon Bon at 7:45 this morning so Ralf could drive us to the Plzen town square of Czech Republic. The bus rides are getting quieter as the dancers and musicians use those hours of travel as a rejuvenation period. Most riders on the top half of the bus slept, until Jon Wood came up and entertained those sitting in the back with jokes, magic tricks, and stories of how he met his wife. What a fun manager to have on tour!

When we first arrived at the beautiful town square of Plzen, we headed toward a reception with the mayor of the city. They had delicious little sandwiches and desserts prepared for us, along with little gift bags provided with souvenirs of the city. The biggest surprise for us, however, was the University of Omaha Nebraska Symphonic Band. Conversations naturally arose between their group and ours, and unexpected friendships were formed in that room. Tour provides so many spontaneous and unforgettable experiences. Who knows what good things might have come because of the visits that took place with students from Nebraska?

Before our performance, we were allowed to explore the city of Plzen. We loved that town square with the amazing architecture of the surrounding buildings and their colors. Despite the small rain shower just a couple hours before our performance, we performed outdoors right in the heart of that square. Directly below the cathedral, a covered stage was set up for us. Other than the wobbling and the medium size, the stage suited us very well. Personally, this was my favorite performance of the tour. Let me try to explain why...

Monday was a holiday known as American Liberation Day in Czech Republic. The holiday celebrates the day that American troops came in and liberated the country during WWII. For this reason, our audience was exceptionally warm and supportive of our being there. Audience members showed up hours before the performance began; they were filled with excitement. Luckily the rain stopped for good, and we changed into our first costume in an old basement across the street. The rest of our changes would take place in the tents behind the stage for the girls, and a somewhat open area for the guys. It was so worth it though. That audience was so receptive, and it was an overwhelmingly joyful feeling to first look at the architecture of the buildings lining the



sky in the distance, followed by the smiling faces of those looking up at us. Some of the audience members, the elderly ones in particular, watched the show with tears of appreciation streaming down their faces. Even while I was dancing, it gave me the shivers to realize what was happening all around me. The children lining the entire front portion of the stage are who made me smile the most. They bounced up and down, cheering with crazy excitement and huge smiles on their faces. It was so special to try and talk to them afterwards, even though I could only remember one word (thank you) in Czech. That performance was an amazing experience, and I was quite proud of how well our team performed on such a small stage.

That night we walked a little ways to a Czech restaurant to officially try some potato and bread dumplings. The dish also consisted of gravy, meat, and onions. The meal was interesting to look at, but actually very delicious. Well, most of us liked it at least. And then after dinner, we all loaded the bus for just about one more hour, to make our way to the beautiful city of Prague.

Day 10: Tuesday, May 6, 2008
Plzen, Czech Republic
By Jonathan Bay

Our first day in Prague was wonderful. We spent the day exploring one of the most beautiful cities in the world. The day started off great at about 1:00 am with a group having “family” scripture study in Michelle and Kellianne’s room. Then it was off to bed for there was a 10:00 am meeting time in the lobby.

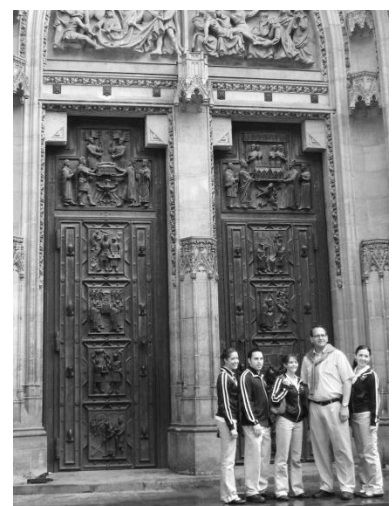


After the meeting, the entire group headed up to the Prague castle. As we were walking up to the castle, it began to rain. As we reached the top, we quickly gathered for a group picture in the rain outside the castle. Following the picture we all headed inside the castle gates. In the square inside the castle we ran into a group of our friends from the University of Omaha (the ones we met on Monday that are staying in Plzen). It was fun to see them again and talk for a minute. Upon discussion we discovered that today was the birthday of one of the members in the Omaha group. His name is Tyler and he was turning 21. It was also Jon Bay’s birthday, so everyone gathered around Tyler and Jon and sang a quiet but beautifully harmonized version of *Happy Birthday*. Tyler was quite surprised when Steve Ord broke out his special rendition of *Happy Birthday* with dance included following the group singing.

Everyone was set free to explore the city after the group picture. Most people went to the cathedral in the center of the castle. The cathedral was full of beautiful stain glass windows, and, if you desired, you were able to climb to the top of the cathedral tower and look out over all of Prague. The view was breathtaking.

Throughout the day, many adventures were had by all. Groups explored St. Charles Bridge, cathedrals, and castles throughout all of Prague. One group bought passes and explored the museums in the castle. Many shopped and enjoyed their time walking around the city. Some saw the astronomical clock when it struck on the hour. Two doors opened and the twelve apostles paraded by. Others stopped at the riverside at sunset and soaked in the beauty of nature.

Most people had great non-Czech meals for dinner eating at places like McDonalds, TGI Friday’s, and Chinese restaurants. When the day was over, we gathered at the hotel for a 10:30 devotional. Jon Bay received another beautiful rendition of *Happy Birthday* and the group learned that Mark Ohran went to see *Iron Man* while he was in Prague. Following the devotional, everyone headed to their rooms to prepare for bed – tuckered out from their day of exploring Prague.



Day 11: Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Prague, Czech Republic

Performance: Municipal Library of Prague

By Lyndsey Wulfenstein & Courtney Pearson

In the morning we all had time to go into Prague for some sight-seeing and shopping. I (Lyndsey) went with Ed, Vickie, the Nuttalls, and Ben Watson. We found some neat little shops with beautiful pysanky eggs, music boxes, and Nesting dolls. I (Courtney) and a few others went in search of a post office, and had quite an interesting time getting there and back while trying to follow the map. Eventually, we made it and got back in just enough time to change and get on the bus. Phew!

Once we were all back at the hotel, we got into our warm-ups and loaded onto the bus. On our way to the library for our show, Ralf, our bus driver, encountered some strange bus zones, so it took a long time to get there. When we arrived, we loaded in, blocked our dances, and then went out to dinner. A group of us found a pizza restaurant, which was delightful, and then we headed back. On the way, I stopped at a little shop with Katie Shepherd so that she could buy a razor. The lady there didn't speak English, so it ended up being an interesting experience!

After the show, we found out that a local clogging group from Prague had attended. They came up on stage and showed us some of their stuff. The styling was a little different, but they were good! While we were packing up our boxes, the girls decided to have a little photo shoot in the dressing room, which ended up making them late. Sorry Ed! But it sure was fun! :)

Here's a little treat from Jon Wood and Courtney Pearson:

We had finished blocking and I was sitting in the seats of the theater and a couple of the dancers came and said that there was this lady out front who had a picture of me from when we were there in 1997. So I went out and the "picture" was the program from the show. Jana Rezkova later told me her story... In 1997 the folk dancers came to Kladno, Czech Republic... not too far outside of Prague. President and Sister Bateman were there with the group. The church was really young, so the Public Affairs missionaries advertised the show to families in an effort to help the work. The mission president had the missionaries dress as cowboys and wear sandwich boards around town telling people about the show. Someone had also arranged that the dancers judge a coloring contest at intermission. Even after all that work, they still didn't know if anyone was going to show up. By the end of the show, the community center was packed past capacity. There were even people watching through the windows outside! Jana came not knowing it was by "the Mormons." She loved the show, but when she found out it was by "the Mormons," she said she "ran the other direction" because she didn't want anything to do with the church.

Later Jana ran into some missionaries and they ended up baptizing her. She attributed her baptism at least in part to the show we did in 1997. She still had her program from that performance! This story was a testimony to me of how the Lord empowers our performance and uses it to move his work forward. It was an incredible experience to meet someone who was changed that night by the show.



Audience members from 1997
IFDE tour to Prague



Jana in 2008 at the YSA activity

Day 12: Thursday, May 8, 2008
Prague, Czech Republic
By Amanda Dance

On this Thursday we all awoke at the time we chose because it was a free day in Prague, Czech Republic. We were excited for this opportunity to rest!!! This day started with the same breakfast eggs, cereal, amazing croissants, great baguette bread, vegetables with cheese, and meat. Some students went to the Jewish quarter and found a room full of thousands of names of Jewish people that had lived in that area, but were taken away. They also saw synagogues and a cemetery with 12,000 head stones. This experience was great preparation for visiting Auschwitz the next day.

Mikey, Courtney and I (Amanda) had our own little adventure. We started walking towards the river looking for a park that Courtney ran by this morning. We found a park that had a little teeter totter. We started to have fun playing on the toys and we even clogged on the little wooden stage. We kept walking through the beautiful park when we came across the Moldau River. We saw people in the river using paddle boats. We conversed and decided to go on a ride, it was only 150 zt. We got down to the man in charge and told him that we had 3 people and he said, "Do you want to ride the swan boat?" The three of us looked at each other and laughed. We said, "Why not?" Little did we know that this boat would be the slowest one on the water. We got in and started paddling. It was a beautiful day and the sun was shining. We were pedaling for a while when we saw a familiar face. We thought there couldn't be anyone we knew because we thought everyone else went to the Jewish synagogues. Then we started laughing because we saw it was Jesse, Natania, Deborah, Adam, Sarah, Jen and Jon. They didn't expect to see anyone they knew in a swan boat and we didn't expect to see anyone we knew. It was a great laugh. We decided to race them and of course we didn't win because our boat was heavy with the swan's head. The ride on the river was worth it to see the city from that point of view and the people waving at the big swan.

After this great afternoon, we had to meet back at the hotel at 5pm so we could go to the YSA activity, fireside meeting. At the fireside, there were parents, kids, lots of missionaries, and a few investigators. Ben started off the meeting with an introduction of the group. Then the band played a few numbers and they loved it. We then split off into groups to play some games. There were four groups and the leaders of the groups were Jon Brame, Rachel Mecham, Steve Ord, and Erin Maxwell. I was in Jon's group and we played *Dip, Dip, Dip, Bang*, and then *Horse, Bridge and Baby*. These games were very fun to play with these people. We had a translator to explain the game to everyone. These games were simple and everyone seemed to understand them. It was so fun being partners with a little Czech boy who thought I could not pick him up because he was too big. He was actually very small. It was so fun to see these Czech people get excited about these games. Other games that were played were *Big Booty* and the Viking game. After playing these games, we were called back to sing for them some of our fireside songs. We sang "A Child's Prayer", "Peace Like a River" and "Go Ye Now in Peace". It was again amazing to sing for these people. One can look into their eyes and see their desire for light. We loved singing for them. After that Bethany and David bore their testimonies.

After this fun-filled night, we had some refreshments. There were treats along with chips and salsa, and a sweet, cherry chocolate cake... a few things that we are not used to eating in Europe. We were very grateful for getting such treats and refreshments. These people were so giving and kind. There was a lot of food for everyone! At this fireside, a woman named Jana that had seen our group several years ago told her story of seeing us and then being converted. She was so sweet, loving, and happy. She had not seen our group back in Czech since she was converted. She thanked us so much with a big grin. We felt very gracious to receive the company of these nice people. We never know who we can touch and when. It was a great night chatting with the people of Czech. The time spent with these people will help them remember the light and the feelings they have felt while watching us dance and sing.

Some of us after the fireside ventured back to Prague to say goodbye to the lights and Charles Bridge. Goodbye to a great city! We loved Prague!

Day 13: Friday, May 9, 2008

Krakow, Poland

By Thomas Rawcliffe

Today we woke up early and rode about 6 hours to Auschwitz. On the way we stopped at Tesco (the equivalent of a Wal-Mart) for lunch. The line for lunch, however, got really long and it took us awhile to get out of there. We arrived at Auschwitz I, the smaller part of the camp where all the leadership stayed, as well as the prisoners. We went through with a nice tour guide (we split in 2 groups) who had a thick Polish accent. It is amazing to think of the atrocities that were committed in the very areas that we were walking in. After finishing our tour of Auschwitz I we took our bus to Auschwitz II-Burkinau. This camp is where the main center for extermination was located. Upon finishing our tour of Burkinau, we finished driving to our destination of Krakow.

Director's Note: Everyone was notably affected by visiting Auschwitz. It was hard enough to talk about the experience, let alone writing about it here.

Day 14: Saturday, May 10, 2008

Krakow, Poland

Presenter: Centrum Kultury Dworek Bialopradnicki

Performance: Nowa Huta Cultural Center

By Ben Watson

Today began as an easy-going, free-for-all day. All were at their own liberty to see what they wanted to see and eat what they wanted to eat until we all rendezvoused at 12:00 at the hotel to head on over to the venue. Some chose to visit the Jewish Quarter. Others chose to buy chess sets and other souvenirs at the Cloth Hall market. The food of choice for most people has been kebabs for the beautiful price of 9 Zl (about \$4 USD).

When we finally met to load onto the bus, approximately half of the group was late. We waited for the rest to show up, but by the time we left (20 minutes after the scheduled departure time) three individuals had to be left (Robbie Sorenson, Katie Shepherd, and Matt Thatcher). They, however, eventually joined up with us at the venue (about two hours later). They took public transport to the venue.

The show was a fun show in a venue reminiscent of Soviet days. The carpet was very ugly, and the seating comfy (but old). The name of the venue is the Centrum Kultury Dworek Bialopradnicki. The stage was rather large and provided good room for dancing. Our presenter, Jolanta Kogut, was very hospitable and grateful to have us there. She provided juice, cookies, and other munchies for the group to nibble on as we stayed at the venue. Before the show, we had some down time, so we learned the words and music to John Denver's "Take Me Home, Country Roads". The director of Jawor (the group in Lublin) requested we sing this song on stage with his group at the end of the joint show there.

The performance went without any real dramas to speak of. The house was filled to about three-quarters full (with the help of about ten missionaries and twelve students from BYU's School of Engineering . . . in town for a research trip.)

After our performance, we all loaded the bus and drove to a restaurant (just on the other side of the river from the old Jewish Ghetto). Jolanta and her entourage hosted the entire group with a dinner and some gift bags. As the group was entering into the restaurant, Lynn took five folk dancers (Ben Watson, Steve Ord, Thomas and Bethany Rawcliffe, and Traci Aker) to quickly walk (and sometimes run) across the bridge and into the Jewish Ghetto. He took the group through the Ghetto and stood them in front of Oskar Schindler's old factory (still standing and with the sign still on it). The dinner at the restaurant was beautiful. We had a nice time winding down from the performance. Afterwards, we all stood and sang "Go Ye Now in Peace" to Jolanta and the other

VIPs. She was visibly moved by the experience. All-in-all, the time in Krakow was a clear success for the purposes of this group. It's certainly, a lovely city with a very interesting history.

Day 15: Sunday, May 11, 2008

Krakow, Poland

Fireside – Katowice

Lynn Elliott

THE BOOK OF THE LAMENTATIONS OF ED

Chapter 1

Being an account of the morning feast

1. And it came to pass that the morning broke, and the day dawn did come forth and all of the tribes of Ed did gather from the four corners of the Ibis and from the reaches of the Accor and did join for feasting;
2. Yea all the tribes came to the feast after having slept long and restfully.
3. Yea all of the tribes save a few of the Bandites and one of the tribe of Sorenson, er, Maxwell, who journeyed to the Chapel of the Trumpet player, even Saint Mary's.
4. For they did fear that there would not be enough church attendance for the day, yea even with great fear, so they did arise at dawn and attend the mass and they were greatly massed, yea even massed to their fill, yea even so.
5. And it came to pass that the few Bandites and Erin of the tribe of Maxwell did return to their lodgings and did join the rest of the various tribes of Ed for the morning feast.
6. And they did eat cheese, and meats, yea even processed meats, and bread, and butter, and Dzem and honey and cakes and breakfast cereals.
7. Yea, they did eat eggs, and oranges, and apples, and did drink great quantities of juice.
8. And yogurts and bacon they did eat in large quantities.
9. Yea, they did all eat to their fill and still did eat, and then did eat some more, and then did take food for when they were once again hungry.
10. Even so, verily, amen.

Chapter 2

Being an account of the attendance at church and sundry other events.

1. And it came to pass that all of the members of the tribe of Ed, yea the Bandites and the Tour Leaderites and the Other Tour Leaderites and even the Additional Tour Leaderites and the assorted dancers each to their own tribe did board the great chariot.
2. And the great chariot was driven by Ralf the gentile.
3. And behold, Ralf the gentile did drive the great chariot through the streets and byways of Krakow, yea, even the alleys and paths and trails and walk ways, yea, even through and over and by all straight and narrow paths, and even those not so straight and even more narrow.
4. And it came to pass that we did arrive at our destination, even the Krakow branch building, or rather the bus parking across the way from the building.
5. And we did enter the great and spacious building in which the meeting was to be held; and did wander for the space of much time through the corridors of the great building until we did alight upon the meeting place.
6. And it came to pass that once we had all gathered in the place of meeting, behold it was well filled, yea verily, even completely filled.
7. For verily, the great and spacious building did have many rooms, yea, even very many, but none very large, and the one in which we met was even so, nigh unto small and we did fill it to brimming;
8. And the church meeting consisted of the sacrament service and talks by Amy Carpenter, Vickie Austin, and Andrea Elliott and they did a delightful job.
9. And yea the meeting did end.

10. And we did continue with Relief Society by Leslie Nuttall and Priesthood by Sam Griffiths and they too did a delightful job, and all did stay awake (or almost all) and all were well pleased.

11. And after the space of many minutes, the group did depart the great and spacious building and did return to the Ibis; and all did alight from the great chariot and even Ralf the gentile did alight and it was, even so, amen.

Chapter 3

Being an account of the visit to Wawel, and attendance at the Mass at the Wawel Cathedral and other such things.

1. And it came to pass that the group did reassemble at 10 minutes past the 11 o'clock hour and the group and all manner of -ites, even the cloggites and the Irishites, and the Bandites, and the Leaderites of all sorts, did depart for the trek to the Wawel Castle.

2. And behold, we did walk along the beautiful Vistula, and did watch for fire breathing dragons, and vendors, and the BYU photographer who did create a portrait of the group.

3. And we did arrive at the Wawel in time to attend the 11:30 mass, but behold, we were disappointed in our purpose.

4. For behold, the church had decided that, it being Sunday, and never-the-less the information on the signage, that Mass would like be cancelled for today.

5. And behold, great was the sorrow among the dancers, and the Bandites and Techites and even all the -ites who had great longing to sit in a warm cathedral on a sunny day and listen to a mass in a foreign language, on an empty stomach.

6. And now, had the Bandites, and the Techites and the dancers and all of the assorted leaders gone to mass, behold, this is what would have happened;

7. Behold, the dancers and the Bandites and the Techites and all of the assorted leaders would have found their way into the Wawel church.

8. And behold, they would have squeezed themselves onto the hard benches between the various gravestones and sarcophagi and they would have listened with great interest to the liturgy given by the priest adorned in the colorful robes of his office.

9. And after four, or yea maybe even five minutes a great stupor would have settled upon them.

10. And behold, the Bandites and Techites and dancers and all other manner of -ites would have slept a great slumber on the hard benches of the Wawel, in the heat of the church and with great hunger.

11. But behold, this was nothing but a dream, and behold, the group had great sorrow that they were not able to participate in the great sleep, on the hard benches, in the warm church at the Wawel because, behold, the church was closed because it was a Sunday, and so verily the students were given free time to wander around the Wawel hill and to see the great courtyard, yea and the view of the Vistula River yea and even some saw the great fire breathing dragon and it was, even so.

12. And it came to pass that soon after midday the group did reassemble to commence a tour of the great and spacious Wawel castle.

13. And behold, the group did separate themselves into two groups, yea the group of Jola and the group of Helana, for Jola and Helana were to be our guides, and they did speak English after a manner that was somewhat of a challenge to understand;

14. And it came to pass that the great tour began with the weapons, yea and Jola and Helana did explain to their respective groups that the long metal items, yea even with a sharp edge, were swords, and the long poles with points were spears and the round objects were shields, and many other interesting things did they expound on.

15. And the groups saw many swords, and many spears and halberds and pikes, and weapons of all sorts, and flags from the Battle of Grunewald and armor of the winged hussars, and chalices, and snuff boxes, and armor, and nose pickers and nit pickers, and combs, and plates, and all manner of all sorts or all types of things royal.

16. For yea, Wawel was a royal palace, and many people of the royal type did once live in the palace, and they did leave all sorts of things after the manner of royalty, and many of these things of royal nature we did see.

17. And Helana and Jola did tell us many sundry things of interest relating to all of the silver and gold and bronze things we did view.

18. And behold, great was the wonder and amazement, and the joy and astonishment of the various tribes of Ed.

19. And even they were greatly amazed.

20. But yet, this was not all.
21. For behold, once the various tribes of Ed had seen all of the swords, and guns, and knives, and fireplace poker, behold, they did then have the chance to see the various rooms in the royal palace.
22. And they did see the room with the heads in the ceiling, and there was great rejoicing.
23. And then they did see a room with tapestries of fine workmanship and there was almost as great of rejoicing.
24. And they did see another room with tapestries, yea even another room with tapestries, and even another, and there was tepid rejoicing.
25. For behold great was the weariness of the dancers and the Bandites, and the Techites and the various leaders, for behold one can only enjoy so many things of great worth and of royal nature before one begins to rebel.
26. Yet all the tribes of Ed did hide their rebellious natures and were courteous to Jola and Helana even though their much talking and guiding did weary the tribes of Ed greatly.
27. And behold, and finally, the tours did come to the great ballroom, with leather wallpaper, and behold, all the tribes of Ed were greatly astonished because, behold, the tour did end there, and there was great rejoicing, even so, amen.

Chapter 4

Being an account of the incidents of the afternoon.

1. And it came to pass that all the tribes of Ed did flee the castle of Wawel.
2. Yea behold, some did visit the church on Wawel (where they did not attend mass sitting on the hard benches in the warm room among the gravestones and sarcophagi).
3. But behold, all did eventually leave the Castle of Wawel and did descend onto the old town of Krakow to spend their rapidly devaluing dollars and to find sustenance.
4. And they did find all manner of food, yea even all manner of kabobs (the traditional Polish food) and all sort of PECTOPAHs [yes I know that this is Russian but I had to throw it in].
5. And they all did stroll around the old town even until the afternoon when they did re-gather at the Ibis for the evening events.

Chapter 5

Being an account of the trek to Katowice, the fireside there, and the ending of the day.

1. And it came to pass that the Bandites, Techites, dancers, and all of the assorted leaders, yea even all of the tribes of Ed did board the magnificent chariot,
2. And behold, Ralf the driver did drive the great chariot through the narrow roads, and small alleys [see chapter 2 verse 3] and to the highway and off to the great city of Katowice.
3. And behold, shortly before 6 pm the group did arrive at Katowice in the heart of Poland's great industrial district, and area full of trees, and coal, and contaminated soils;
4. And the dancers and Bandites and Techites and all the assorted leaders made their way to the Katowice Ward building which was past the Babylon Club, up the narrow stairs in a small room much after the order of the Krakow ward building, though the building was not so spacious.
5. And there the various tribes of Ed did present a fireside for the saints of Katowice;
6. Behold, Natania did give a sermon to the gathered saints, which was delightful;
7. And Colin did also address the saints, encouraging them greatly in their faith;
8. And Jen did address the audience and she did tell the saints about her favorite Polish word "Jen-koo-ye" which roughly translated means "giant turnip chicken", and that her favorite color [blue] and also other items to encourage their continued diligence;
9. And Adam did also address the Saints, and behold, his favorite color is green, but he has no favorite Polish word, and his sermon too was delightful.
10. And Amanda gave the scripture and all of the students, yea even the Bandites, and Dancerites and Techites, did join in song to enrich the program with songs of praise and thanksgiving
11. And the spirit was strong, and the saints and tribes of Ed were uplifted, and thus it was, even so, amen.
12. And behold Justin did meet his long lost second cousin in the wilds of Poland;
13. For behold it truly is a small world.
14. Yea even a small world . . .

15. After all.
16. And the group did once again board the great chariot;
17. And Ralf the gentile did drive the great chariot back to the Krakow Ibis.
18. And the group did end the day, having seen much, and talked much, and been uplifted much, and thus it was, even so, amen.

Day 16: Monday, May 12, 2008

Lublin, Poland

Presenter: Jawor Folk Ensemble

Performance: w/ Jawor at Lublin Agricultural University

By Katie Shepherd

The first part of our day was spent traveling on our wonderful bus. It wasn't long after we embarked on our 6 hour drive from Krakow to Lublin that Michelle came to the back of the bus searching for her passport. Turned out it was nowhere to be found and we had to leave her behind with trusty Lynn Elliott and his wife Andrea to help search out her passport. In the meantime, the rest of us kept ourselves entertained on our way to Lublin—sleeping, listening to music, playing games, etc. Oh, and it can't be forgotten that we spent much of our time on the bus singing "Take Me Home, Country Roads" in preparation for our finale with Jawor, the performing group we would be dancing with that night. We got straight to our venue—the Lublin Agriculture University to load in and eat a yummy meal from our presenters. The show went great: the first number was a collaboration with our group and Jawor... the finale was our excellent version of "Take Me Home, Country Roads."



In the meantime, Michelle, Lynn, and Andrea had quite the adventure of their own. After being dropped off by the bus, they went back to the hotel and then to the main square. With no luck there they went to the consulate. After asking around and calling the police there was still no report of the missing passport. So they began to make plans on how to meet back with us and who to leave behind, etc. As Lynn looked for train rides he picked out the cheapest one even though it had a lot of stops to try to keep the cost down. Once they got on the train and traveled for about an hour, they received a call from Jon Wood telling them the consulate had called and had the passport. While making plans to get back to Krakow, another call from Jon came with bad news, or so he thought. He continued to tell them that the passport was not in Krakow but in a small town called Radom, and it just so turned out that Radom was their next "tedious" stop on their train ride! What a miracle! Through the prayers of many team members, Michelle was able to get her passport with no hassle. They were literally led right to where they needed to be. So as our show was coming to a close, Lynn, Michelle, and Andrea were able to see "Take Me Home, Country Roads" in all its glory.

After our performance, we were fed again—another excellent meal and then the musicians came out and played and everyone danced! The Polish boys did a dance for us and then we did a dance back. We waltzed together, taught "Hey Susanna," and sung songs. It was such a wonderful night! The Polish group followed us all the way to our bus and as we drove away they sang "na na na na, na na na na..hey hey hey, goodbye." (In the words of *Remember the Titans*)

Day 17: Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Warsaw, Poland

By Colin Slade

Yet another glorious day began in Lublin, Poland. The sun was shining between a few scattered clouds and the air was cool and brisk, a lovely day to get back on our hotel-on-wheels, piloted by Captain Ralf.

We left just after 9:00 am on our 4-ish hour trek to Warsaw, the bustling capitol of Poland. Along the way we enjoyed the song, devotional, and prayer offered by Jesse and Rustin. Jesse chose “Give Said the Little Stream” for our song and Rustin spoke on spiritual gifts. The two worked together to help us understand that each of us has talents and gifts that we can use to bless the lives of others.

While the sun was still high in the sky, we pulled into downtown Warsaw in front of the ominous clock tower known as the Palace of Culture and Science. It was at this juncture we were released for about an hour to find lunch. Some found food at places such as Subway, McDonald’s, or grocery stores. With our palates satisfied, we departed again for a reception held at the United States Ambassador’s residence.

The Victor Ashe family is originally from Eastern Tennessee. They have lived in Warsaw and he has served as the ambassador to Poland for the past three years. The home they stay in was originally built in the early part of the 20th century and survived the world wars. It is now beautifully furnished with art depicting scenes from the Ashe’s home. The reception was held in a newly added veranda which opened to the home’s well kept yard and a view of the Warsaw skyline. It was in this setting that we enjoyed the company of the Ambassador’s wife—Victor was detained elsewhere on business—among other Polish VIPs. While in their company we learned of the Ashe family background and the Polish attitude toward America, which was described to be in our favor. We left the reception after 4:00 pm and went to our hotel, the Premiere Classic. Our hotel in Warsaw was both premiere and classic. Each room, or camper as we called them, came complete with two beds and an airplane bathroom. They were pretty much mansions in themselves, so we partied a lot.

That evening we had free time to explore and find our own dinner. There were two main groups that split and headed off in search of entertainment and food. One group went with Lynn into the old town while the other went back to the Palace of Culture and Science and saw *Iron Man*: great cultural experiences all around.

Our first day in Warsaw ended with a short meeting in the hotel lobby and a prayer.

Day 18: Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Warsaw, Poland

Fireside – Warsaw Chapel

By Steve Ord

Today was Awesome! We had a free day to tour around Warsaw and we had a free day for tour outfit options. It was a fun day. Groups all went their own ways. Some went to parks with fountains and the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, others went to the Soviet building, and still others got a cultural experience at the art museum and the Polish War museum. Both museums were cool to see. The war museum was luckily free today and groups had fun taking pictures with the tanks and planes outside the museum. There were other things to see like the mall, the flea market, the opera house, and prison camps. Thomas and Steve were filmed by Kellianne and Bethany chasing around a fountain with water shooting up at them through holes in the ground. All the people in the square laughed at the site of the two Americans getting soaked, even the security guard was laughing as he shoed them away. The team then met in old town at the castle plaza to take pictures of the



Buddy Bear United Nations exhibit in the castle square and we followed Lynn Elliot to a small theatre to watch a great movie about Warsaw and the Uprising in 1944. The rest of the afternoon was spent shopping, sightseeing in old town, and tasting pierogis and other good food. That night the group was split up. Eight dancers with leaders and some band members went to a workshop with a great country dance group here in Poland. The rest of the team had an amazing fireside. The boys sang "Prayer of the Children" without music and it sounded great. The spirit was so strong at the fireside. The testimonies were wonderful. Michelle told her miracle story about her finding her passport and Rustin gave a memorable testimony actually acting like a dinosaur across the stand. The audience loved the fireside. After refreshments, the team returned to the hotel and had a lot of fun together. Some went for pizza, or other food, and then everyone spent their night strengthening friendships.

Day 19, Thursday, May 15, 2008

Warsaw, Poland

Performance: Sowinskiego Park Amphitheater

By Justin Morgan

The students woke up with an extra smile today since we were able to enjoy some free time in the morning for our last full day in Warsaw. We all split in different directions to see the city of Warsaw. Some went to see the palace on the water, some to the pottery shops (where some beautiful pottery was purchased), some went to the mall, and some to the flea market. Steve and Kellianne even hung out with Sister Stone (a former folk dancer now serving a mission in Poland) and barely made it back in time to leave for the venue. At the same time the band went and set up at Royal Square (or "Bear Square" as we might know it) and played for the crowds. They opened the guitar case and people just started to give them money. They had quite the crowd gathered around them in the end. The people just loved their sweet sounds. By the time it was time for them to leave and get back to the hotel they had earned about 75 zlotys! They split it among them and used the money to their own pleasure.



We all loaded the bus for the show that night. We performed at an outdoor amphitheater which had a concrete stage with marley on top (just enough to muffle the sounds we attempted to make). It seated 2500 people and was a little over half full for our show. Our presenter was Danuta Jampolska, who joined the church



not long after her first contact with the folk dancers in the late 80's. She was a wonderful lady and really took care of us. She didn't find the horse joke funny even when she said it in Polish! We had the opportunity to perform with the group Promni from the local Agriculture University. They performed Krakowiak and Oberek which are well known among some of our dancers. Promni is made of students... some of which have not been dancing for more than 4 months! They did a wonderful job. Promni's director was amazed to learn how much we practiced every week and complimented us on our professional quality dancing. During the performance Jon Brame was able to learn the lifts that Promni did which impressed many of their dancers.

There are many random stories along with special stories that go along with today. I'll start with the random. Sandra Rogers was showing off her clogging skills to Ed after the show. I think we have a slot for her on the team next year. A drunk man kissed Jen's hand, you'll have to ask her if she enjoyed it. One man waved a large Confederate flag over his head when we walked out in our southern costumes, which brought smiles to many of our faces.

Here are the special stories: After the performance the dancers from both groups got together in a circle, sang, and kissed each other goodbye. Promni kept chanting “USA!” which made us feel very welcome in their country. Justin talked to the boyfriend of Promni’s director - whose name was Adam – about many things, but in the end he showed interest in Family History. So, Justin introduced him to the missionaries who hooked Adam up with information he needed to get started.



Maria Tucker’s dad is having someone from Poland help him with his family history. He was invited to the show by Maria’s dad and was told that Kellianne would be wearing a yellow shirt in the end. This man found Kellianne and was very excited to make the connection and really enjoyed the show!

There was a woman, Eva, who also came to know the church through Folk Dance and got baptized. She went to school in America where Dave Marriott’s father was her bishop. She got in an accident and almost lost her life, but miraculously lived. However, she lost all of her memory of the church. Dave’s father still keeps in touch and she was even at the performance tonight! It was special for Dave to see her here in Poland.

This day was wonderful for all of us! We will always look back at this day with gratitude and love. We came back to the hotel and had random parties all night long. Good times...good times.

Day 20: Friday, May 16, 2008
Minsk, Belarus
By Michelle Crosland

Crossing the Border – Poland to Belarus

Edwin started the day off right with a whole lot of love. As per his request, we all turned to our neighbors and told them we loved them. Then we were on the road. We had a long day ahead. We stopped after a few hours at a gas station for a rest stop and an impromptu soccer game broke out. We had a great time getting out some of our wiggles and our bus drivers even joined in. Back on the bus, we settled with the border on our minds. As the first police officer came on the bus to collect our passports, a solemn silence fell over everyone. No one quite knew what to expect from the officials we would be working with. Thankfully, we all had our passports and everything went smoothly.

We made it to the border around 1:30 pm, hopeful that things would go quickly and smoothly. Six and a half hours later we knew all the stories of long waits at the border were true. While the secretaries at the border worked slowly translating all of our paperwork and entering it all into their systems by hand, we busied ourselves with various activities and made the best of things. There was a rousing game of signs, a hip-hop party, people reading books, writing in journals, taking naps, playing cards and board games and the band instruments. All in all, the experience wasn’t half bad. Once we were back on the road, we still had a long bus ride before we finally pulled into our hotel. It was about 2:00 am and we were tired and sore, but grateful to be in Belarus!

Day 21: Saturday, May 17, 2008

Minsk, Belarus

Presenter: Minsk Philharmonic Society (subset of Ministry of Culture)

Performance: Minsk Philharmonic

By Bethany Rawcliffe

Today we slept in after our late arrival at the hotel. Breakfast went until 10 am, which is about when most went to eat in the hotel. Some members of the group then went for short walks around the tall Hotel Belarus and the surrounding park. We met at 11:30 to travel to the venue, The National Philharmonic Concert Hall in Minsk. Our presenter was the National Philharmonic Society. We were assisted by Tamra and Elena (from church public affairs in Moscow) with our performance and in all the arrangements. Even after being told that we couldn't do a fireside, Elena made it possible. It was a holiday weekend in Minsk so there were people out and about at festivals and activities. We were driven into the city center to get our own lunch, which was a little difficult to find. Some found a mall/market to buy fresh food and some souvenirs, some went to Lido, and some ate at a café down the street.



We met back at the venue to unload around 1 pm. The auditorium was really large and fancy. There were a lot of seats and a balcony above. The stage and wings were a little tricky and uneven, but as usual we made it work the best we could. We unloaded quickly so that we could meet for announcements, blocking, and sound checks and maybe still have some time to go souvenir shopping. Thomas and Jesse had an interesting time trying to translate for the technicians as they tried to set up the lights and sound. "Does anyone know how to say mixer in Russian?" says Thomas. He found out it was said "mixer." They weren't as lucky with some other terms.

The group split up for about an hour and a half to shop. Some went back to the mall to buy Belarus jackets and souvenirs and some went with Lynn and Andrea on the metro to an open-air market they found earlier to buy folk art. Chess sets, embroidery, matryoshkas, and Russian church music boxes were some of the treasured finds. Everyone rushed back to meet for dinner at 4:45 at Lido. Lido was a big buffet-style restaurant that had lots of choices: too many choices for some. The helpings given were also a little ridiculous: if you asked for vegetables, you would receive a very large plateful, but there was no use asking for less. There were crêpes, several kinds of chicken and sausages, potatoes, rice, salads, drinks, and a huge selection of fruits and desserts. Some found rather delightful desserts (like coconut ice cream in a coconut shell) but others found some not so delightful (cottage cheese tofu-like puree with strawberry sauce). There were lots of whipped cream desserts that appeared to be ice cream but were not.

A member of the Area Presidency, Elder Paul, and his wife joined us for devotional. He welcomed us and told us our visit was very rare and exciting. He bore his testimony and wished us the best of luck in our show. We then had our own devotional and prayer, followed by a warm-up with Ron on the stage.

The show was totally sold out. They even brought in extra chairs to line the aisles to allow more people to attend! The show was smooth, except for the usual loud ripping sound coming from Dave Marriott's behind as he ripped his pants. Again! Throughout the show the audience clapped in unison frequently for everything they enjoyed. It was a little strange for them to "encore" us in the middle of a dance, but we all enjoyed it. They clapped several times when we walked out in costumes (Irish and Southern) and clapped wildly for the band. There was an "encore" after nearly every number! If that wasn't enough, we were all pretty blown away by the reaction of the audience at the end of the show. They clapped, hollered and "encored" for a very, very long time. They even stood up and clapped and remained standing through "Irish Blessing," and roared again when it was over with smiles on their faces. A large basket of flowers was brought out to us.

As usual we greeted the audience. Many told us in broken English how much they loved it. We got a lot of "We love USA" and "Come again soon." Everyone was so gracious and kind to us. We could tell many of

them wanted to talk to us more but couldn't speak English, so they would blurt in Russian and give us hugs and kisses. A little boy named Jenya traveled 600 km with his mother to come to the show and cooled-down and did stretches with the group. We met members of the Ministry of Culture as well as other VIP's. We met Sergei and his family from the branch that helped us. There were also dancers from the state folk ensemble there (some sat in the front row) and Ed talked with the director who said he would love to perform on the stage with us.

Many people congregated in the foyer for quite a long time. Dancers taught simple clogging steps to the children and Sarah was asked to teach a lady some Irish steps... she caught on quickly. The children also gathered as many autographs as they could. Sam had a little experience when he took off his clogging shoe to show someone and was swarmed by many who wanted to see! Someone mentioned afterwards that you can tell how much the audience enjoyed the show by how long they stay afterwards, and boy, did they stay! The ushers finally had to kick everybody out. No one wanted to leave! We packed up and returned to the hotel to have a quick meeting and then sleep. After last night everyone was eager to get to bed.

Day 22: Sunday, May 18, 2008

Minsk, Belarus

By Deborah Bailey (actually by Jon Bay)

A Belorussian Sunday

Due to the type of government in Belarus, many of us expected the branch to be tiny and struggling. This morning we were surprised to arrive at a building full of members of all ages. Church was wonderful.

The government of Belarus does not allow foreigners to speak about religion over the pulpit. Not even Elder Paul, the visiting general authority, is allowed to say anything - so we just listened to the meeting via translator. The members had very strong faith. During sacrament meeting several of the young adults and youth got up to bear their testimonies and report on the Youth Conference in Moscow that they recently returned from. Their testimonies were inspiring. They truly stand as a light to the world in their country.

Following sacrament meeting we stopped for lunch and then headed back to the hotel to rest before the fireside. The time to rest, relax, and contemplate actually made it feel like a normal Sunday. Soon our rest was over and we headed back to the chapel (old war barracks) for the fireside.

The fireside went well after solving the problem of where to put all 40 of us in the L shaped room that served as the chapel. An adequate location was found and it was smooth sailing from there. The members were really appreciative of our coming and we could all feel the spirit present. After the fireside the members were so happy. They wanted to talk with us and take pictures. Events like this do not happen very often for them. They were extremely grateful and touched and did not want to let us leave. They followed us to the bus, and crowded around the bus to wave good bye as we drove away.

We will always remember our warm reception in Belarus and the fond memories we have of the beautiful city, kind people, and wonderful members.

Day 23: Monday, May 19, 2008

Kiev, Ukraine

By Jon Brame

The morning dawned crisp and clear-after a weekend in Minsk, highlighted by an incredible fireside and church meeting, we were ready to leave behind the worry of a government that had trapped us at its border for 7 hours and hotel beds full of bedbugs. The future looked bright as we departed for Ukraine, our last destination on

tour. Unfortunately that bright feeling didn't last very long as we were barely out of the parking lot before we realized that it was unwise to entrust the counting of heads to Thomas (to his credit he had counted all 40 people, just one of them was Ron...)-we had left Natania at the hotel. Of all places to be left, Belarus would undoubtedly have been the worst, and since she had already been on the bus she didn't have her passport or any other identification, so she would have been up a creek without a paddle...or an embassy for that matter! Luckily we noticed she was missing and quickly found her and were back on our way.

As Jon Wood tried to arrange the accommodations for Brother Peterson and Sister Rogers in the hotel in Kiev, the bouncing of the bus was too much for his phone and we had to pull over for a while in order for him to iron things out. Dancers, band members, and technicians spread out in the woods to enjoy our break from the bouncing bus, but soon we were all chased back onto the bus by mosquitoes the size of hummingbirds. Rosie was nearly carried away by three of them-luckily Dave Marriott grabbed her around the ankles and held her down while Biff fought the angry beasts. Once Jon had taken care of the hotel business we loaded back on the bus. Apparently Belarus-in addition to not wanting to let people *into* their borders-doesn't want to encourage people to leave either. The road out of the country was so bumpy that hardly anyone was able to fall asleep through the bouncing, bumping, swaying motion of our double-decker bus. By hardly anyone, I, of course, mean no-one except McCall, who is somehow able to sleep under any and all conditions, regardless of whom or what is around her.

Soon enough we arrived at the border, worried about whether or not Belarus would let us out. A surprisingly nice border guard boarded the bus to check our passports. Unlike the previous border guards who did little other than collect our passports and leave an interesting body odor on the bus, this one was quite jovial: talking to several of us, asking if Thomas and Sam were brothers, and making fun of Steve and Traci's passport photos. After a mere 45 minutes, they let us through without a problem and we all uttered a collective sigh of relief. The hard part of our trip was over. At least that was what we thought. We were wrong....

So it turns out that there is a law in the country of Ukraine-an unwritten law that somehow slipped under the radar of our bus company-that says it is illegal to tow a trailer with a bus. Who knew? Not Ralf apparently. Additionally there is an even more unwritten law that says that the best way to get through a border into Ukraine is to slip the guard a little bit of a bribe to help the process continue more smoothly. Well, being BYU, we are usually the type that keeps laws. However, being BYU we are usually the type to avoid bribes as well, which left us with a little bit of a predicament...

After about an hour of sitting on the bus at the border with nothing happening, we finally were allowed to get off the bus. As per normal border routine, the bugs were enough to drive you absolutely bonkers, and the heat on the bus was enough to make you want to get eaten alive by bugs. After about three hours in which we didn't have access to a rest room, our leaders finally prevailed upon the border officials to let us use the facilities. So of course the line for the restroom filled the entire office and stretched all the way down the street. By this time they had held us long enough that even our leaders started to get cantankerous.

After seven and one half hours of hearts tournaments, clogging in the streets, joke telling, *Ticket to Ride* playing, journal writing, soccer ball juggling, assorted EFY games, sleeping, and much swatting of bugs, we were finally allowed to pass. The impetus of our passage changes depending on who is telling the story. Some say that they let us through because they were just tired of the loud Americans clogging their border. Some say that Andy secretly slipped the guard an American \$100 bill. Some say that we called our friend the Ukrainian Ambassador to the US and he convinced them to let us through. Most agree that it was a miracle no matter how it happened, so as soon as we got the word, we all loaded on the bus and took off before they could change their minds.

By this point, in order to follow the law about no busses pulling trailers, we had loaded all of the personal bags into the downstairs of the bus and all the costume and tech boxes wherever they would fit, so we had boxes all up and down the aisles of the bus, on seats, in front of the bathroom, etc. In order to communicate with the leaders, we had to climb up the mountain of blue travel bags and stick our heads through the little hole up by the

ceiling and hope that they heard us. We drove about 100 meters into Ukraine, and then met up with the van that had pulled our trailer through the border, at which point we promptly re-hooked our trailer and drove into the country unmolested. (apparently Ralf was charged some pretty incredible fees when he tried to exit the country after driving for three days with the trailer...)

We arrived at our Hotel at about 2:30 in the morning-a beautiful 16 story hotel overlooking the river, the hill, the statue, many of the monasteries, and most of the city of Kiev-and promptly fell asleep having crossed our last European border.

Day 24: Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Kiev, Ukraine

Presenter: US Embassy and the National Technical University of Ukraine

Performance: National Technical University of Ukraine “Kiev Polytechnic Institute”

By Kellianne Huntington

Tuesday morning started later than usual because the group was very tired from the long trip the day before. It was our first day in Kiev, and we had a performance that night. We met at 11 am to go to lunch. We ate at a little Ukrainian restaurant. At about 1 pm we went to the venue to set up. Rachel and Steve read the “most likely” sheets we had filled out the day before. When we got to the venue, we said our goodbyes to Lynn and Andrea before they left for Paris.

Our venue that day was at the Technical University in Kiev and was the second largest stage in Kiev. It was also the largest venue we performed at during our tour. The stage was also a very nice and large stage, but there were a few problems in that the stage was not completely level, and it was also a little slippery. This made the show a little more difficult, but the size of the stage helped to make it a little better.

Our presenter’s name was Anna, and she was a Ukrainian from the U.S. Embassy in Kiev. We also had another friend with us, and her name was Zoja. She was a member of the Church and spoke very good English. She took us to the restaurant for lunch that day. We also found out that she helped to translate the Book of Mormon into Ukrainian.

After we were ready for the show, everyone had a few hours to relax, read, write in journals, and sleep. During this time Ed asked the boys in Fandango to make a few changes. The boys decided they were going to mutiny. After one of their rehearsals of “Home on the Range,” the boys all jumped up, pulled off their shirts, and ran in chaos off the stage. They were very excited about this.

During the free time, the boys that danced Mehk this past year performed this dance on stage in their new Hungarian boots that were fit to their feet. An audience had gathered in the theater between PAC, technicians, and our presenter... and those helping her. Everyone was pretty amazed at the sounds made by the new boots.

That night we met earlier than normal for devotional because we had a few visitors with us. The area president and his wife were there, and he spoke to us about the amazing things that were happening in Ukraine and told us that we were helping the work progress by being there dancing and representing the Church. Ed and Sandy also spoke and gave us closing motivational thoughts. Ron and Leslie had devotional, and Ron gave a really nice thought about having faith in the Lord because even though many people will be leaving the team, Heavenly Father will still take care of each person individually, and good things will continue to come to them.

That night, the show started at 7 pm, and Ed said that it was one of our best shows yet. But there were still a few funny things that happened. Near the beginning of the show Amy was taking pictures on the side of the stage and realized that she was supposed to be walking on stage for “Irish Dance Masters”. Luckily she snuck on in the middle. Later on in the show, Jon Wood was found dancing around in a southern slip and French Canadian

hat during “Appalachian Patchwork”. During one of the band numbers he was also found with a “Journey” wig in his armpit dancing for the band. During clogging, Mark was testing out his clogging skills on the side of the stage. Ron was also on the side dancing with a cowboy hat.

After the show everyone greeted the audience, and the people were very grateful that we had come. Sandy Rogers also showed us her clogging skills, and she was voted an honorary folk dancer! We love her! After striking the set, everyone bombarded McDonald’s for dinner, and then we went back to the hotel.

Day 25: Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Kiev, Ukraine

Fireside – Ukraine Chapel

By Biff and Rosie Jones

We met early in the morning ready for a fun-filled day in Kiev. As a group we drove to the “Kyivo-Pecherska Lavra”, the oldest Orthodox cave monastery in Ukraine. It was founded in the 11th century. While at the monastery we visited two churches. They were unique because they were the first Orthodox churches we’d seen as a group.

After looking around the monastery a bit, we headed down towards the caves. The caves are a sacred place at the monastery and so the women of the group had to cover their heads if they wished to take the tour. They were more than happy to shop for scarves to oblige. Just before we entered the caves, we were told that the ladies also had to be wearing skirts, which were available for purchase at the cave entrance. Luckily we double checked and found out our outfits would be just fine.

The caves were dark, so we were asked to buy a small beeswax candle to help light the way. Ben Watson kindly paid for all the candles to simplify things. The candles helped make the experience memorable. We used them to see the frescoes on the wall and to light passageways. Also in the caves were the monks’ mummified remains housed in glass coffins. It was a little unnerving to think that we were in a cave with corpses! It should probably be mentioned that the cave walls had been covered with stucco years ago, and so the cave actually felt more like a basement at times.



Next we went to see the Victory Lady, i.e. the gigantic soviet statue of a woman. In one hand she was holding a 12-ton sword (that’s the size of twenty-four baby elephants!) and in the other she held the USSR crest on a shield. Kiev was presented this monument for its heroism against the Germans during WWII, known in Ukraine as the “Great Patriotic War”.

Afterwards we had free time downtown. We ate lunch and most in the group visited an open-air market. It consisted of about fifty stands where vendors were selling almost identical merchandise at each one. We had fun shopping for nesting dolls, pins, chess sets, tablecloths and t-shirts. Ukraine is well known for its decorated eggs. They were very beautiful, but unfortunately current restrictions made it illegal to bring a genuine egg back to America. Many in the group settled for the painted wooden eggs.

One of the vendors spoke with Jon Brame asking, “Are you from Salt Lake City? You look like really good Mormons. But usually you wear those nametags.” Jon explained who we were and what our group was doing in Ukraine. The man told Jon that missionaries had come to his house once at midnight. Even though it was late he decided they were good guys. We’re a bit skeptical about the midnight part, but it’s nice to know people

have had good experiences with the church. It's interesting that people associate us with the church without our saying anything. We're truly on stage all the time.

After a short rest at the hotel we left for our last fireside. It was held at a ward building in Kiev. We were impressed by the number of young members in attendance! With the temple being built and the number of active youth, the future of the church looks promising in Ukraine! Bethany, Matt, Justin, and Amanda spoke and did very well. The fireside was a success. Jonathan Friedman overheard a boy that turned to his parents and said, "I think it's time I came back to church". Firesides are one of our favorite parts of tour because of experiences like these.

Day 26: Thursday, May 22, 2008

Kiev, Ukraine to Provo, Utah

Ed Austin

Today we go home!

6:25 AM Group meets to load the bus outside Hotel Slavutich. Ralf sleeps in!
6:30 AM Group continues to wait for Ralf!
6:35 AM Group begins to grow restless as we wait for Ralf!
6:40 AM Ben discovers that Michael and Colin are not present.
6:45 AM Ralf arrives to the bus.
6:45 AM Michael and Colin receive a frantic wake-up call!
6:55 AM Michael and Colin arrive to the bus.
6:56 AM Group departs for the airport.
7:30 AM Arrive at airport.
7:35 AM Group says goodbyes to Ralf and Andreas ... the two best bus drivers ever!
7:45 AM Mark takes Thomas to clear customs. All students group together in HOLDING PATTERN.
7:55 AM Jon, Ed, and Vickie go forward to clear CHECK-IN.
8:10 AM Mark shows signs of jubilee upon clearing customs.
8:11 AM Students released from HOLDING PATTERN to go to first check point.
8:30 AM Jon, Ed, and Vickie pass through first check point and achieve CHECKED-IN status!
8:31 AM Jon predicts entire group will take one and a half hours to complete CHECK-IN.
9:10 AM Group completes CHECK-IN in record time.
9:20 AM Members of group search for food in airport ... some form groups to begin GAMES.
9:45 AM Pete requests the group to gather for an audience with the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine.
9:58 AM Ambassador Taylor appears from Business Class Lounge to greet the students.
10:07 AM U.S. Ambassador completes questions and answers and the giving of accolades to students.
10:08 AM Deborah is swept into the Business Lounge by the U.S. Ambassador.
10:12 AM Group begins line for second check point to achieve BOARDING status!
10:40 AM BOARDING status is completed and students await TAKE-OFF!
11:07 AM Plane begins moving to engage TAKE-OFF.
11:12 AM Plane enters RUNWAY.
11:13 AM TAKE-OFF completed!

The rest of our journey to New York went without incident. We had a choice of *Pesto Roasted Breast of Chicken* or *Penne Pasta*. Three movies were shown: *27 Dresses*, *The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep*, and *National Treasure/Book of Secrets*. We then were treated to *Four-Cheese Pizza*.

2:07 PM Landed at JFK Airport ... looking forward to a 5.5 hour layover
7:45 PM The time scheduled for TAKE-OFF.
8:10 PM Boarding the delayed plane.

8:45 PM The announcement—"There are 47 planes ahead of us ... do the math!"
 9:30 PM **The TAKE-OFF ... finally!**
 12:20 PM **TOUCHDOWN in SLC!**
 1:10 AM Bus leaves airport for Provo.
 1:50 AM Bus arrives at BYU, 11:30 AM (the next day) Kiev time.

After the longest Thursday ever, and about 28 hours of travel, our group arrived safely to our homes!

This has been an extraordinary experience. We have had such a variety of opportunities that have been life changing and enriching ... educational and spiritual. A short recap would include:

- Hungary**— U.S. Ambassador's reception
 Dancing with the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble
 Receiving the U.S. Ambassador's Cultural Diplomacy Award
 Creating possible collaboration with Mihalyi Gabor (Misi), Artistic Director, HSFE
 Viewing a full performance of the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble
 Visiting the House of Terror in Budapest and learning about what occurred there
 Sightseeing and shopping in Budapest
 Acquiring 7 new pairs of Hungarian Boots
- Slovakia**— Dancing with *Lúčnica*
 Dancing with *SL'UK*
 Dance workshop of Slovakian and American dance
 Fireside in Bratislava with Zouzska's father, a professional musician there
 Special side trip to Vienna for sightseeing
- Czech Rep**— Reception from the Mayor of Plzen
 Performance in Plzen ... in the town center
 Sightseeing in Prague
 Special Banquet held for Artists in Prague by Sara Lee Gibb
 Performance in Prague for a packed audience
 Meeting dancers from *Dvorana* and *Caramella*
 Young Men's and Women's activity in Prague; premiere of new Mission anthem
 The conversion story of Jana Rezkova
- Poland**— Visit to Auschwitz
 Performance in Krakow; meeting Jolanta Kogut and Sylvia
 Shopping in Krakow
 Fireside in Katowice
 Reuniting and dancing with *Jawor* and Jerzy Horbowski in Lublin ... the "after party"
 Reuniting with Danuta Jampolska in Warsaw
 Sightseeing in Warsaw; old town
 Fireside in Warsaw
 Dance workshop of American Dance
 Dancing with *Promni* in Warsaw in the amphitheater
 Sandra Roger's "jig"
- Belarus**— The border crossing
 Meeting Elena Nechiporova, Europe East Area, Public Affairs Director
 Meeting with President and Sister Paul of the Area Presidency before the show

Performance sponsored by the Philharmonic House to a sold-out audience in Minsk
The audience response in Minsk
Unprecedented fireside with Minsk members with Government permission

Ukraine— The border crossing
Meeting Zoya Gulko and Diana ... President and Sister Gibbons of the Area Presidency
Performance in Kiev
Sightseeing in Kiev; the monastery and caves
Fireside in Kiev

We will never forget the faces, the wonderful feelings, the variety of new food, or the beautiful places we have experienced together on this tour. And the students and leaders this year were exceptional in their patience, leadership, performance skills, and in their abilities to make friends and share of their spirits.

Thanks to everyone involved this year. A special thanks to Jon Wood for his creative thinking in putting together such a rich and varied experience ... and a very special thanks to Vice President Sandra Rogers, Erlend Peterson (Pete), and Dean Sara Lee Gibb who, by their presence, created an extra special folk dance tour.

This was a “life experience” which we will never forget ... ever.

Breaking News

*BYU International Folk Dancers at Franklin
Elementary School
Port Angeles, WA*

With a beautiful array of ethnic costumes, the BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble presented a short program of dances from more than a dozen nations, including Ukraine, Russia, Korea, Poland, Mexico, and the United States to share with our students at Franklin. Lively music, energized, talented dancers, incredible costumes—we had a taste of the BYU Folk Dance Ensemble and felt fortunate to experience their skillful dancing and energy.



News Release (May 8, 2008)

*U.S. Ambassador to Hungary honors BYU Folk Dance Ensemble during performance
Part of three-week Central European tour*

Brigham Young University's International Folk Dance Ensemble captured the hearts of European spectators and award-winning attention from the U.S. ambassador in Hungary last week during its three-week Central European tour.

Teaming-up with Hungary's national folk dance ensemble for a joint performance, the dancers watched as U.S. Ambassador April Foley took the stage before the performance and presented the BYU ensemble with the Ambassador's Award for Cultural Diplomacy. The award recognizes them for their efforts in building cultural ties and friendship with other nations through the medium of dance—particularly folk dance.

“This award recognizes those individuals and groups whose outstanding efforts win the respect of their peers and serve the embassy's goal of deepening mutual understanding between the U.S. and Hungary,” Ambassador Foley said. “Their knowledge of folk dance makes them an exceptional partner for the Hungarian folk dancers and helps connect American and Hungarian audiences through a common language of movement.”

The Hungarian State Folk Ensemble, having just returned from a three-month tour to the United States, was keen to host a joint-performance with the BYU “American” Folk Dance Ensemble in the historic Budapest Heritage House, giving the majority of the performance hour to BYU to present their repertoire of American folk dances to the near-capacity audience. The BYU students were excited for the opportunity to perform with the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble. “We were the lucky ones because we were able to perform with a world-renowned professional team. I felt like it was not only an awesome opportunity to dance with them, but also a great opportunity to interact with them, to talk with them and to get to know them through a medium we both love,” said David Marriott, a second-year BYU folk dancer.

Already a week into their tour, the BYU folk dance ensemble has been received by U.S. ambassadors in Hungary and Slovakia and interfaced with representatives from the offices for the Ministry of Culture in both nations. They have personally greeted enthusiastic audience members at the close of each performance, including a joint performance with Slovakia’s state-sponsored folk dance ensemble.

Administrators for the tour have taken measures to offer the BYU students the opportunity to act as cultural ambassadors in this year’s folk dance tour, tying-in with the performers, audience members and political dignitaries from each host nation. BYU International Vice President Sandra Rogers is accompanying the ensemble on the tour.

BYU’s Folk Dance Ensemble has since moved on to the Czech Republic, performing as a feature entertainment in Plzen’s “American Liberation” celebration commemorating the liberation of Plzen by American forces from German military occupation in World War II. Nearly 1,000 spectators gathered into the town-square to catch a glimpse of the hour-long outdoor performance, including some who were present when the town was liberated by Americans in World War II.

The group now has just over two weeks until the close of their tour in Europe, with performances set in Poland, Ukraine and Belarus.

Mail Room

Dear Bro. Wood and Peterson,

Thank you so much for all your efforts in making the Dance performance in Minsk, Belarus possible. We have had several positive remarks from those who are government officials. I hope that it will make our efforts more acceptable as we meet with them and apply for permission to do projects and receive permission for long term visas. There were also many in attendance who were non-members invited by the local members from whom we have received great remarks and appreciation for being invited. The sister "volunteers" are teaching 4 of them and I'm sure the performance and the positive influence of your youth will be a help in their continued interest in learning about the Church. Hearts and spirits were touched at the performance and at the Fireside. Our youth were impressed with the number of those who had served missions and had learned a language. It gave hope and direction to their lives. It was a tremendous amount of effort for you and the dancers but will be remembered for a lifetime by all who performed and attended.

Thanks again,

***Jerry and Sue Ann Capener
Humanitarian Service Volunteers
Minsk, Belarus***

Jonathon,

On behalf of the Warsaw District, please pass along our sincere thanks for the marvelous presence of the BYU Folk Dancers. The fireside on Wednesday evening was beautiful and inspiring, and the performance this evening was full of life. We came home singing and dancing, absolutely enlivened by the show. They are remarkable students and I am very grateful that BYU places such importance on sharing these talents with this world. We wish them all the best on the remaining legs of their journey and safe return home.

Cheers,

***President Banks
Warsaw District President***

Hey everybody,

You will be interested to learn that Jana (who attended our fireside and performance in Bratislava) has been baptized a member of the Church. Quincy and I met her and her Gramma when we

visited Bratislava in 2006. We kept in contact with her via e-mail and I invited her to come to our fireside. She came to the fireside and then started taking English lessons from the missionaries. From there, she began the process of taking the discussions. What a marvelous experience it is to be a part of an organization that touches the lives of people all over the world.

To those of you continuing on with the group this year... have a great year of performing and remember to capture every moment you're blessed with. To those of you moving on to new adventures... have a great year... and remember to capture every moment you're blessed with, too ☺

Ben Watson

Update (as of July 8, 2010): Jana continues to attend and serve in the Bratislava Branch and has visited the temple in Germany several times. She recently sent me a copy of her conversion story.

Dear Janneke:

I just wanted to thank you for the privilege it was to be "on tour" with the Folk Dance Ensemble. The trip was a highlight for me in so many ways. I enjoyed being able to be with all of you. As I told you in Kiev – I don't have many opportunities to be with students now that I push paper and go to meetings. The time I spent with you reminded me of why I wanted to be at BYU and strengthened my belief that our BYU students are capable of moving mountains and working miracles. I was reminded of the verse in the Doctrine and Covenants 6:8 "and if you desire, you shall be the means of doing much good in this generation."

I will always remember the miracle of the passport. What a story of faith you can repeat to your children and grand-children. Also share with them the faith of the good members you met in small branches, and in the first stake in Europe East (Kiev). We can learn much from the faith of the members- from the good sister in Bratislava who was baptized just before the missionaries left at the beginning of World War II to the Saints in Belarus who are proving to the government they can be trusted. My hope is that their example of trust and honesty will earn them the same blessings afford to the East German Saints who also persevered under a Communist regime.

I will also remember the beauty and precision of your performances. You wowed the crowds and shared with them your talent and your spirit. I am still singing "your music" and remembering the dances.

I will remember the history we saw – some of it very sad and depressing, and yet we also felt the spirit of good people rising up to conquer that darkness.

Thank you all for your kindnesses to me – I loved my time with you and pray the Lord to bless you with everything you need.

Warmest wishes,

Sandi

A Final Thank You

Dear Members of the Performing Arts Company:

What a wonderful year we have had!

Thank you so much for your participation with the Folk Dance Ensemble on tour this summer. Every day I think of the wonderful experiences we had together in Central and Eastern Europe and of just how unique this tour was. Of course, all of our tours have certain elements which make them special, but this tour did have a unique blend of opportunities for both the students and the leaders. And I am so glad that you were able to be a part of it. This year I thought that each participant performed excellently.

I don't think I will ever forget how proud I felt as each of you performed on stage with the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble. For me, personally and professionally, this will always stand out as one of the highlights of my career. I also felt as if we were being led—maybe even carried into Belarus—as we performed for the overflowing audience in Minsk, and then had the unique opportunity to meet with the Saints there—two completely different kinds of experiences, but both so important for our goals on tour. I continue to feel the greatest honor in being a part of this program. I'm so thankful I was able to share this experience with each of you.

Vickie and I especially enjoyed the time we were able to spend getting to know each of you better. An extra blessing on every tour is the opportunity to make wonderful friendships within our group. It means a lot to us.

I hope that those of you not with us next year will continue to come by and update us on your lives. It is always so good to hear of the many good things which you are each pursuing.

Thank you for your great examples and best wishes for a great new school year.

Warmly,

Ed and Vickie Austin

Write Me A Song

Song for Danny

By: Lyndsey Wulfenstein and Mike Christensen
(To the Irish Melody "Danny Boy")

Oh Danny boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling
From glen to glen, and down the mountain side

(To the Book of Mormon Stories Rap)

Danny is a real cool guy, if you didn't know come and see
He really likes cars and he gets a big smile when you talk about Italy
He does our sound, and has a cute wife that we call Jannakee,
Give it up for the Stud called Danny!

(Beat Box Interlude)

Give it up for the Stud called Danny!

Song for Ralph/ Dearest Ralph

By: Lyndsey Wulfenstein and Colin Slade

Dearest Ralph, Dearest Ralph, every morning you greet us,
With the bus, all of us, we're so happy to see you!
You drive us all over Europe to do our shows
We love you so, of course you know!
Dearest Ralph, dearest Ralph, We're so happy to know you!

Ralph stands for:
Really awesome bus driver
Always does U-turns
Loves to wear speedos and do belly flops
Professional soccer player (kind of),
Has a big heart

Dearest Ralph, dearest Ralph, we're so happy to know you!

(Disclaimer: We wrote this song before we found out that he spelled his name "Ralf", whoops!)

Song for Matty

By: Lyndsey Wulfenstein
(To the tune of "I saw the sign" by Ace of Base)

(Mike Christensen Beat boxing in the background, and Katie and Jen back up dancing)

I saw the sign, and it opened up my eyes
And I am happy now dancin' next to you
You are so coooooool!
I saw the sign, and it opened up my eyes,
I saw the sign!

(cartwheels, somersaults, etc. in the background)

Song for Vickie

By: Lyndsey Wulfenstein and Jon Brame
(To the tune of "Count your many blessings")

1st Verse

When upon our Tour when we are Tempest tossed,
When we're at the border thinking all is lost
Who is teaching Leslie how to clog in the road?
The smile on her face will always lighten the load!

Chorus

Vickie, Vickie, Vickie, Vick, Vick, Vick,
She will make us happy really quick, quick, quick,
Vickie, Vickie, She's our mom on Tour,
Vickie, Vickie, Vickie we will love her evermore.

2nd Verse

When your shirt is wrinkly she will let you know,
She keeps Edwin happy and that helps our show,
She helps us pick out treasures at the Old Town Square,
And lets the girls know when it's time to fix their hair!

(Repeat Chorus)

Contact Information

Dancers

Aker	Traci
Bay	Jonathan
Brame	Jon
Burton	Cami
Carpenter	Amy
Christensen	Michael
Dance	Amanda
Fisk	McCall
Garrard	Jennifer
Griffiths	Samuel
Huntington	Kellianne
Jones	Biff
Lamb	Josh
Marquez	Janneke
Marriott	David
Maxwell	Erin
Mecham	Rachel
Morgan	Justin
Ord	Steve
Pearson	Courtney
Rawcliffe	Bethany
Rawcliffe	Thomas
Sanderson	Sarah
Shepherd	Katie
Slade	Colin
Thatcher	Matthew
Van Katwyk	Rustin
Watson	Benjamin
Wulfenstein	Lyndsey

Leaders

Rogers	Sandra
Austin	Ed
Wood	Jonathon
Elliott	Lynn
Nuttall	Ron
Ohran	Mark
Peterson	Erlend (Pete)
Gibb	Sara Lee
Philbrick	Mark

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