

THE FOLK DANCER

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THE FOLK DANCER

Int'l Folk Dance Ensemble
Alumni Newsletter

Editor
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Department of Dance
Brigham Young University



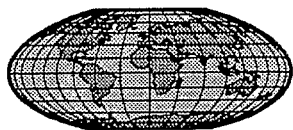
INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

Alumni Organization

President
Anne Butler Wells

Committee Members
Kelly Gleave
Amy Thurston Jex
Kyley Jex
Scott Mahoney
Earlet Phillips Meiners
Bryce Bassett
Yayoi Swapp

Christmas Around The World



This year's concert will once again highlight a single country

as the program opens with the music, dance, and Christmas traditions of Poland -- featuring the magnificent costumes obtained from Poland in recent years. The most recent acquisitions are exquisitely hand-embroidered costumes from the Łowicz region, home of the Oberek, one of Poland's recognized national dances.

The concert is scheduled for December 5th and 6th, 7:30 p.m., at the Marriott Center. Tickets go on sale Saturday, Nov. 8th, at the Marriott Center Ticket Office.

Call 1-800-322-BYU1 or 378-BYU1 to reserve your tickets now.

Our new repertoire will include *Cry of the Celts*, a fantastic ensemble number featuring Irish Step Dancing after the fashion of *Riverdance*. This number was commissioned for *Homecoming Spectacular 1997*, and features Johanna Edlinger, this year's freshman scholarship recipient, (and sister of Katie Edlinger). Other new choreographies include: *Szomszédok*, from the Moldvai area of Romania and choreographed by István Szabó, *Polyanka*, a new Russian choreography by Richard Wacko, and

an exciting new French-Canadian piece choreographed by René Frechette. Other numbers to be presented will include such favorites as *Pouzunets* from Ukraine and *Cigán Pergetés*, our gypsy dance from Hungary.

Plan now to join us for both the concert, and the alumni reception held after the Saturday evening performance in the Marriott Center.

Faith in Every Footstep

We wish to give a special thanks to all those who participated in the Church sesquicentennial production of *Faith in Every Footstep*, performed July 24th and 25th in Cougar Stadium. What a wonderful event it turned out to be for both those who performed and for those who were in the audience.

If you would like a copy of the spectacular, it is available on back order at Church distribution centers for \$8.00 (order # 97618). A CD and/or cassette of the music is also available.

Kurt Bestor did a remarkable job of laying music from 8 different cultures on top of one another so that they could play simultaneously during the performance. Unfortunately the video does not reveal the panoramic view of all the groups performing together. However, I recommend that you who were not able to see the program, (and most of Utah didn't), get a copy.

REUNION 1999

Whatever you do, don't miss the *CELEBRATION OF A CENTURY, REUNION 1999!* Start tightening those tummies, building that endurance and schedule now for the 40th Anniversary of *Christmas Around The World*, the first weekend of December 1999. It's going to be great fun. If you missed it last time, you won't want to miss it again.

Anne Butler Wells has consented to be Chair of the event, and is putting a committee together now. If you would like to volunteer your time and talents, please notify Anne at (801) 798-9675 or nwells@caldera.com

Plan to join us now by putting this event on your calendars. We look forward to seeing all of you there.

Scholarship 1997 Recipients

Congratulations to our 1997-98 scholarship recipients.

MARY BEE JENSEN ENDOWMENT
Camille Heckmann
Amanda Neilson

EXCELLENCE IN FOLK ARTS
Cecilie Kamil
Joseph Kroupa

VILTIS SCHOLARSHIP
Michael Brown
Jeremiah Hansen

HARMON SCHOLARSHIP
Clayton Dorny
Lindsay Slade
Cameron Sneddon

Folk Dance Ensemble Enjoys Success in Czech Republic

This summer the Folk Dance Ensemble was accompanied by Merrill J. Bateman, President of Brigham Young University, and his wife, Marilyn. The folk dancers attended 7 festivals and performed private concerts as they visited the countries of Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and France.

The following are excerpts from a talk given by President Bateman at the BYU August commencement 1997 and are used here with his permission.

During the past two weeks, I have had a firsthand opportunity to observe BYU's students close up as Sister Bateman and I traveled with the International Folk Dancers in Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria and Switzerland.

In the main square of Old Town, Warsaw, I watched our young people perform. At the beginning, there were a few members, missionaries and investigators gathered around the makeshift stage. By the end of the performance, the square was filled with more than a thousand citizens of Warsaw, applauding vigorously.

During the performance, Poland's Minister of Education and her husband sought out the leaders of the group to learn more about the students, BYU and the Church. She asked why these young Americans looked so happy and appeared so clean. Two 16-year-old non-LDS Polish youth learned that I was in the audience and sought me out to see if there was any chance they could attend BYU and become part of the folk dance group.

In Kladno, Czech Republic, there are no members of the Church.

The mission president, Edwin Morrell, a retired BYU faculty member, recently opened the city to missionary work, and he suggested that the Folk Dance performances in the Czech Republic be in Kladno to acquaint the city with the Church.

Two missionaries with the aid of a Public Affairs missionary couple worked for two weeks to invite people to the performance. A hall which seated 500 was rented with great trepidation and concern that it might not be filled. The local television station was visited and its management agreed to send a crew to interview our performers and film five minutes of the performance.

More than 800 people came. Five hundred were seated and 300 stood for more than two hours to watch and applaud. The television crew interviewed a number of BYU students and personnel and were so taken by the performance that they were still taping it after it was over. At the end, the audience refused to leave as they continued clapping and chanting "encore, encore, encore."

These experiences were repeated in Salzburg, Austria and in Zurich and Biel, Switzerland, where more than 600 people were in attendance at each performance. In each instance, more than half of the audience were non-members....

Upon my return, I have thought about the influence for good wrought by our young people as they tour the earth each summer and also your [the graduates'] influence as you leave the university and settle in some distant community.

I have been reminded of Nephi's vision in which he saw our day...

In verse 12 (1 Nephi 14:12), Nephi records: "...I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few, because of the wickedness...; nevertheless, I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the saints of God, were also upon all the face of the earth..."

Today, the Church numbers almost 10 million members. Is it small? It is less than one percent of the six billion who inhabit the earth. In three decades or less, trends suggest that Church membership could total 40 million or more. Will we still be few in numbers? In relative terms, the answer is yes! However, there are Church members in more than 160 countries and territories. With few exceptions, there are Church members "upon all the face of the earth."

In spite of our size, Nephi states in verse 14 that we will be a strong and influential people. He states:

"...I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb...who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory."

During the past five years I have seen the power of the Lamb descending on the saints from Tokyo to Seoul, in Washington, D.C., from California to Florida, from Sweden to Johannesburg. During the past two weeks, I have seen it in the streets of Warsaw, in a theater in the Czech Republic and in Austrian and Swiss auditoriums. More importantly, I have seen it in the lives of BYU students."

Folk Dance for Youth

Introduce your children to dancing with a fun and educational course in International Folk Dance designed especially for them.

Courses begin Jan 6th and last until Apr 20th. For more information, contact Michelle Kennedy, BYU Courses and Workshops, 801/378-8713.

Thank
you...for
Donating



We have been receiving donations from many of you on a regular basis, and we wish to thank you on behalf of the students who benefit from your generosity. The monies have been building the MARY BEE JENSEN ENDOWMENT FUND, which honors two outstanding students each year. We truly appreciate your support of the programs and students in the folk dance ensemble.

We hope that you all might consider donating to the Folk Dance Alumni Scholarship Fund, acct. #6-29395, or to the Mary Bee Jensen Endowment Fund, acct. #30-187-272. This can easily be accomplished by indicating one of these accounts on your annual request form from BYU. It is the goal of the university to "extend the influence of BYU", and the Folk Dance Ensemble plays a major role in this quest. Please help us fulfill this goal with a suggested amount: of \$25.00...or of course ...more.

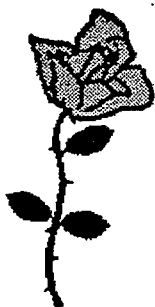
Alumni Directory Update



We are continually updating the folk dance alumni directory. (Would you all please stop moving!) If you have any changes in your address or phone number, or have any information about one of our "lost souls", please send your information to Vickie Austin, 259 RB-BYU, Provo, Utah 84602. Here is that list of this fall's "lost souls":

*Marcie Nash Arter
Spencer Ashby
Angus Barnes
Larry Bickmore
Chuck Blake
William A. Bond
Norm and Cyndi Pullins Brower
Gaye Brown
Tom Brown
Barry Bullock
Clayton Chamberlain
Jim Cobbley
Greg Duerden
Robert Erickson
George Estacapio
Elizabeth Evans
Tiana Fatutalie
Jacques Gohier
Roni Hammond
Janet Hansen
Robert Hawker
Jan Hemming
Susie Hinson Howard
Jill Rigg Janzen Johnson
Dean Kerr
Andy Martinez
Rene McDaniel
Steve Murdock
Kim and Geri Nielson
Bryan Noyce
Jack Peterson
Peggy Rhodes
Cynthia Roberts
Ralph Wahlquist*

Mary Bee To Be Honored



The San Antonio College Folk Dance Festival will honor Mary Bee Jensen for her contributions in the field of international folk dance at a ceremony March 13-15th, 1998 in San Antonio, TX.

A book of congratulations and remembrances is planned for part of the presentation.

If you would like to send a short congratulatory greeting and/or other thoughts on how Mary Bee has impacted your life, please send them to DeWayne Young no later than November 20th, 1997.

DeWayne's address is:
359 S Cleveland Ave
Blackfoot, ID 83221
E-Mail: dyoung@labor.state.id.us

Mark ✓

your calendars now for a **GREAT NIGHT** of:

Dancing
Food
Music
Performance
Socialization

&

Relaxation

as we invite back the Alumni once a year to join us for this new yearly event.

Friday March 27th, 1998

COSTUMES FOR SALE!

Once again we have costumes available for purchase. If you are interested, please contact Colleen Anderson (801) 378-3271.

DON'T DELAY. THESE COSTUMES MOVE QUICKLY!!!

HUNGARIAN

- 6 vests - black
- 8 M's pants w/matching vests (grey)
- 29 pants -- white with black trim

AMERICAN

- 5 baby-doll dresses
- 3 white lace parasols
- 7 hats -- black (Appalachian)
- 6 jeweled baseball caps -- black
- 16 plain baseball caps - black
- 11 W's "peddle pushers" - white
- 15 leggings -- black
- 13 M's pants -- black
- 13 M's western shirts -- red w/ white yolk
- 16 M's western shirts - black w/ white fringe

ISRAELI

- 7 M's robes (Debka)

UKRAINIAN

- 1 W's basic
- 16 sashes -- orange
- 22 M's shirts

SPANISH FLAMENCO

- 1 M's Flamenco shirt -- pink
- 13 M's body suits -- black

PHILIPPINE

- 1 W's flowered blouse
- 6 M's shirts


MISCELLANEOUS

- 6 aprons -- green
- 14 flowered scarves -- turquoise
- 10 W's Mexican aprons -- black,

** Assorted styles of boots **
(please inquire)

SEND US YOUR NEW ADDRESS!!!

To Update Information

 clip this portion and send to Vickie Austin, 259 RB-BYU, Provo, Utah 84602

Name:
Year/s of Participation:
Address:

Telephone:
SS#:

(for office use only)

Other Addresses You Know

Name:
Address:

Telephone:

Name:
Address:

Telephone: