

THE FOLK DANCER

ONE LAST CHANCE TO SEE US IN UTAH THIS YEAR!

Prior to the group's departure for their summer tour, there will be one opportunity to see them perform at Brigham Young University. Their concert, *REFLECTIONS* will be presented in the De Jong Concert Hall at Brigham Young University, Friday, June 28th, at 7:30. For tickets call, 801-422-4322.

They will also perform *REFLECTIONS* twice, June 29th in the LDS Conference Center in Salt Lake City. These shows will be at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be obtained online at lds.org/events.

"What an unbelievable year this has been for the International Folk Dance Ensemble!"**New Costume Warehouse**

All the costumes had to be moved from the Richards Building to a new storage facility off campus. Do you realize how many spaces and "cubbyholes" we were using in the Richard's Building!?

The former costume room, along with the Driver's Education garage and the old "canoe room", are now remodeled and house the new dance training room facility. Therefore, all the costumes had to be moved as soon as possible. Do you know how many costumes the Folk Dancers have? It's in the thousands—and it was a huge undertaking as all costumes, accessories, and props were counted. There were also detailed pictures taken, and a new inventory created. It took hours of time with the help of many students.

Everything was moved with the exception of the Performing Arts Company's repertoire costumes. These continue to be housed in the closets above the basketball court, and in a new walk-in closet built in Room 278. Colleen is still our wardrobe supervisor and costume designer and Delynne is our new costume and properties coordinator.

Summer tour 2001

Our summer tour, 2001, was an outstanding experience for all involved. Travels took the group to Belgium, England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland—"bookended" by festivals in Drummondville, Canada and Billingham, England.

The group first spent 10 days in Canada at what we consider to be one of the premier festivals in the world. There was not much time for play. Rene Frechette, Director of the festival, knows the talents of our group and he kept them very busy. In addition to normal festival performances, our group was featured each night on the main stage for the end performance where we danced *Keltatak*, our large Irish production piece. The students had a marvelous time making lifetime friends and memories.

From Canada the troupe traveled to New York, and performed one show on Long Island. Then they were off to Belgium where they performed for 3-4 days in a small festival in Charlerois. We also had one performance for the local church members on a stage that was quite amazing---very raked, and made of rough timbers. The floor seemed to be flying everywhere as we performed our Irish hardshoe and American clog dance.

After Belgium, the group headed for the United Kingdom for five weeks of shows. There were performances in stake centers, concert halls, and some beautiful theaters--all kinds of experiences. We saw wonderful sites of interest and stayed with marvelous families each place we went. Ireland, and especially the city of Dublin, was a real treat and a first for the Folk Dancers. The coastline of Scotland was absolutely beautiful and Edinborough quickly became a favorite city for the students. Wales was fun because an expert of Welsh clogging, Huw Owen Roberts, along with members of the Welsh Dance Society, attended our performance and they could not say enough about the abilities and showmanship of the students.

In addition, the group also had the treat of spending 2 ½ free days in London enjoying the museums, shops, and of course, the theater. Some students saw as many as four shows.

Our summer tour ended at the Billingham Festival. This was a huge contrast to the experience in Canada. The group did not have near as much to do--performance or otherwise. They were, however, able to renew some old friendships with the Drummondville group, *Mackinaw*, who were also performing at the festival. And there were some excellent groups from other countries also represented. Some of the favorites came from Moldova and Finland.

The only event that marred the trip were the various flights on Sabena Airlines. Something happened to our luggage on every leg of the trip. Not once did everything make it to our destination. We had Hungarian bottles broken, and costume bags mangled. The frosting on the cake came when we arrived back to the States and over twenty pieces of equipment and personal luggage had not arrived with us. It took a week to gather it all together, and two of the students never did recover their personal items.

All in all it was a marvelous seven weeks. (This was a very long tour for us, but probably does not compare to the historic three month tour of yesteryears.) The students did a wonderful job of representing the university, the church and their country.

Fall Semester 2001

Fall Semester was the beginning of what would turn out to be an extremely memorable and busy year. Even though all the students were cautioned to lighten their loads, no one really understood the amounts of work, time and energy the year would require. Fall semester is always busy with *World of Dance* and *Christmas Around the World*. This year Homecoming Spectacular, Light of the World rehearsals every other Saturday and Opening Ceremony auditions and rehearsals were also added to the schedule.

The Olympic Fever Begins

It was early in September that Christine Shell Holding, arranged for the choreographers of the Opening Ceremonies for the Winter Olympic Games to come to BYU and audition the Performing Arts Company. Christine was an assistant choreographer for the Opening Ceremonies. PAC was very new and had been dancing together for just a short time. They had been working very hard and it all paid off. Their "audition/performance" was incredible. The students seemed perfect! The energy and spirit combined to create such a powerful feeling in the room, and the event blew those Hollywood choreographers away. It was quickly decided to take the whole group and cast them in a prominent part of the production, even though they would have to work around our existing rehearsal schedule. And so those rehearsals were added to the schedule. This also caused the students to have a very short Christmas break as they had to rehearse on December 22nd and 28th, In addition, the Winter Semester started one week earlier to accommodate a week-long break for the Olympics.

September 11th

As one more result of this never to be forgotten day, all international touring from for Brigham Young University performance groups was canceled. Groups were quickly reassigned to locations throughout north America. The Folk Dance Ensemble will be performing in the United States during the month of July. For details pam.byu.edu

Guest Choreographers

Also during this time the group had two guest choreographers come to set two suites totally opposite of one another. First was Tom Bozigian, who with his wife, came and set a beautiful women's piece. It was great to have Tom with us again after so many years (1970's)

Our second guest artists were Martin Langlois and Caroline St. Martin from Drummondville, Canada. They taught and set a delightful suite of French-Canadian dances. The students particularly loved learning this as they recalled their recent trip to Canada and their close relationship with the group up there.

Both suites required not only precise movement and dancing but taxed their singing skills as well. These two sections were highlights in *Christmas Around the World*. And Martin came back to perform the solo part in *La Bottine Souriante*.

Christmas Concert

Christmas Around the World was a major production all around. There was more live music involved than ever before. Besides our own American/Celtic musicians, *Jomoka*, a renowned Hungarian group from Salt Lake City, and Martin Langlais, Quebec, performed with our musicians and dancers. It was wonderful feast of world dance and music.

Salt Lake City 2002 Winter Olympic Games

What an awesome experience for all of our Performing Arts Company members to be involved in the Salt Lake City 2002 Winter Olympic Games. It was such a great time to be in Salt Lake City and feel the energy and the sense of history being written while you were actually there! It was not easy, nor without sacrifice. It took a tremendous amount of time and commitment from the students.

Light of the World was a major work in progress and ended up as a wonderful Church production for the world to enjoy. During each week of January, Ed and the students spent Tuesday through Thursday nights, and all day Saturdays rehearsing. Fridays were reserved for Opening Ceremony rehearsals.

The performers learned patience and flexibility as changes were made right up and through opening night. They also had many special opportunities to meet General Authorities during the process. One special preview was performed solely for the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

Many of our costumes also were used in the production as well. Colleen designed some beautiful new Hopak costumes for our ensemble which were also used in this production.

The Opening Ceremonies was another highlight. The group performed in *the Suite of the American West*, in a segment entitled *Rendezvous*. Our students performed a really fun clogging number on risers 100ft x 5ft, directly in front of the audience. The costuming was vibrant, (the students were able to keep their own outfits,) and just being a part of the festivities was something they will never forget. Some managed to get up into the athlete seating during the actual night of the production and three or four had the singular experience of meeting and shaking hands with President Bush's hand. It was wonderful for all!

The Folk Dancers (in their spare time) also performed twice at the Medals Plaza and once at Washington Square. The Spring Performing Arts Company also performed for a special delegation from Turkey.

Mary Bee Jensen Gives Once Again

The National Folk Organization (NFO) has rigorously pursued attracting membership from the student sector of folk dancing to build up their organization, and to encourage young people to become invested in the folk arts. Lucas Handy, son of Clay and Kristine Hansen Handy, is the NFO student representative. This year he traveled to Argentina to represent the United States in a world meeting of youth who support the folk arts.

Mary Bee felt the folk dancers at BYU would be a natural strength to help "jumpstart" this new youth movement. Due to her vision, she and the Folk Dance Division generously donated NFO memberships to members of the Performing Arts Company and the Spring Performing Arts Company (60 students), to introduce them into the national organization. Some of these students attended the recent NFO Conference in Sacramento, California.

2002 Summer Tour

This summer the Folk Dance Ensemble will be traveling in the United States.

The troupe will leave July 3rd for Independence, Missouri to be the featured concert in the city's 4th of July Celebration. From there they will travel and perform in Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina. You may want to check with your stakes as to the days and times of our performances in your area or look online at pam.byu.edu We'd love to see many of you there.

2001-2002 Scholarships

This past year's scholarship recipients were: *Mary Bee Jensen Endowment*, Alicia Davis and Josh Probert; *Viltis Award*, Lindsay Turner, Benjamin Hyrum White; *Norma Pardoe Anderson Award*, Christina Butler Sanchez; *Excellence in Folk Arts*, Jonathan Gibson and John Noll; *The Harmon Scholarship*, Jacob Davis, Lisa Malan, and Marsha Searle.

Because of generous donations from many of you, we have been able to continue and enlarge our scholarship program. Congratulations to all these fine students for their hard work and dedication to BYU's Folk Dance program.
