



# *The Folk Dancer*

Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2007 Edition

Editor: Vickie Austin

## *Christmas Around the World: A Tapestry of Peace*

*Christmas Around the World* combines a variety of rhythm, beautiful costuming, and exhilarating movements to create a cultural feast for the entire family. It is a seasonal tradition that brings the world together on the campus of BYU during the holidays.

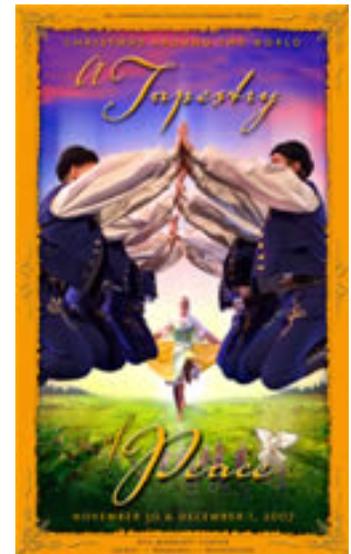
On November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>, *A Tapestry of Peace* will showcase international folk dance at its very best. More than 40 years of *Christmas Around the World* and you are still bound to see something new this year during our annual celebration.

New choreographies being highlighted in this year's concert will be an exotic umbrella dance of the People's Republic of China; the vibrant steps of the Irish; an exciting interpretation from Turkey's Black Sea coast; and a heart-racing Ukrainian Hutsul dance from the Carpathian Mountains. The USA will also be represented with precision clogging that will have you dancing in your seat, with a special number featuring 150 talented young cloggers from throughout Utah—many of them your children.

Other favorites will exhibit the cultural diversity of the Philippines, Hungary, Russia, Slovakia, Romania, Austria, and Scandinavia. Live music, performed by *Mountain Strings*, will be featured throughout the program.

General public tickets will be available beginning Saturday, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> at the [Marriott Center Ticket Office](#). There are three performances to choose from including an afternoon performance on December 1<sup>st</sup>. We have a special promotional this year only that we get to participate in. On Friday, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, after 5:00 p.m., we can [order pre-sale tickets](#) before the general public. By entering the word **peace** in the promotional offer page, you can get your tickets early. Come enjoy the fun!

\*Alumni of the Folk Dance program and special friends are also invited to a special reception held in the Cougar room of the Marriott Center, Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at approximately 4:00 p.m.—between the matinee and evening concert.



## November Activities



Join us November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for a fabulous evening of folk dance fun highlighted by the teaching of Ahmet Luleci and a small demo performance of *Collage*, from Boston. This evening we will also be delighted by the performance of the Ukrainian class.

Then attend Worldance 2007 on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. at Kingsbury Hall, University of Utah where Ahmet and his group, *Collage*, will present their show of traditional and contemporary world dance. The Performing Arts Company will also take part in this presentation.

Tickets are \$10.00 and may be purchased at Kingsbury Hall; [www.kingsburyhall.org](http://www.kingsburyhall.org).

## Spring Performing Arts Company (SPAC) 2007

This year's SPAC had another full and exhilarating experience during the month of May. This program not only helps the students in building strength in character, spirit, and body but also enriches the lives of the children they perform for. It is proving to be invaluable in helping to increase the excellence of the Performing Arts Company as many of these students move up.

It was reported that the 2007 SPAC did 68 performances which included 55 elementary schools, 1 middle school, and 3 private/charter schools along with several others. They certainly were busy. It was estimated that they performed for 41,225 people from January to May, 2007. Wow!

Jeanette Geslison has been assigned the artistic director for the Spring Performing Arts Company for the 2008 season. We wish her and the new group much success.

## PAC Spends July and August in Italy and France



This past summer, the Performing Arts Company spent five and ½ weeks in Italy and France representing the United States at three International Folk Dance festivals—Castiglione del Lago and Festival della Collina (Cori), Italy and Confolens, France.

The festivals were a wonderful experience for the dancers. They were able to dance with groups from Venezuela, Latvia, Kamchatka (Russia), Chile, Martinique, Italy (Sbandieratori Dei Rioni De Cori) Colombia, Mexico, Turkey, Serbia, Bulgaria,

Daghestan (Russia), France, Greece, People's Republic of China, Tahiti, Cuba, Spain, and South Africa.

Highlights of the trip included gelato (ice cream), sightseeing days in Rome, Florence, Venice, and Paris, a special excursion to perform on the Isle of Capri, and an exceptional 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary festival in Confolens. They did not spare anything this year. And Mary Bee, accompanied by DeWayne Young met us in Confolens. Another highlight was the reunion of many friends in folk dance groups that we had previously been with before at other folk festivals.



We were hot in Italy and cold in France. One can never plan quite right. And for you that have gone to festivals in both places—the food was great in Italy...no surprise. But, it was also great in France! Confolens has really improved its menu and is certainly not serving the typical cuisine of the past.

The quality of the dancers was very high this year and they represented Brigham Young University, the LDS Church, and our country well. [Visit our 2007 summer tour photo favorites.](#)

## Folk Dancers Perform for Ambassadors - By Ben Watson

HUME, VA - Nine dancers from BYU's Folk Dance Ensemble danced for the who's who of Washington D.C., performing for ambassadors and dignitaries from 33 countries at the annual LDS Church Public Affairs Picnic held on October 12th this year. The picnic, hosted at the Marriott Ranch near Hume, Virginia brought together over 400 dignarities and their families for a day of fun-filled "western-themed" activities.



Teaming-up with a handful of dancers from BYU's Living Legends, the Folk Dancers gave a 45-minute performance to the international crowd gathered under a circus-tent canopy and then invited dignitaries on the stage to join-in for some boot-stomp'n' of their own. BYU Folk Dance director, Ed Austin, promptly formed the masses into longways-sets and then proceeded to call the cues for Virginia Reel. However, this Virginia Reel looked anything but Virginian-looking more like a cross-section from a Political summit -for how many times does one see Ambassadors, Senators, and a member of the President's Cabinet "do-si-do-ing" on the same stage? Truly this was a fun-filled day for all and an exciting opportunity for this handful of dancers from the BYU Folk Dance Ensemble.

## Mary Bee Reaches Yet Another Milestone!



June 1, 2007 was the day chosen to celebrate Mary Bee's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. This amazing milestone was hosted by her children, Jim and Linda Jensen and was held at the beautiful home of Clayne and Eloise Jensen. Mary Bee has many friends—and they all came to pay homage to the grande dame of BYU Folkdance. She continues to amaze us all and still runs circles around us with her boundless energy! It was a great occasion.

## PAC Mid-semester Tour 2008

The Performing Arts Company will take their annual mid-semester trip to the Northwest in February of 2008. For more information, visit the [Performing Arts Management](#) web site or email Jonathan Wood at [jcwood@byu.edu](mailto:jcwood@byu.edu).

DATE	CITY	VENUE	CONTACT INFORMATION	
Feb 22	Boise, ID	Centennial H.S.	Martin Thome:	360-830-9067
Feb 23	Richland, WA	Hanford H.S.	Chris Myers:	509-627-6409
Feb. 25	Vancouver, WA	Skyview H.S.	Dennis Hill:	360-260-1981
Feb. 26	Bremerton, WA	Bremerton H.S.	George Eads:	360-830-9067
Feb. 27	Marysville, WA	Everett Civic Aud.	Melodie Knopf:	360-403-0944
Feb. 28	Port Angeles, WA	Port Angeles H.S.	Patrick Downey:	360-417-5640
Feb 29	Olympia, WA	Washington Ctr for Perf. Arts.	John Liddell:	360-491-7875
Mar 1	Tukwila, WA	Foster Perf. Arts Ctr.	Lee Hilton:	425-445-3043

## Division Offerings

The World Dance Division continues to add to its wonderful array of offerings. In addition to the ethnic dance courses (Polynesian, Hungarian, Spanish, Ukrainian, Chinese and Irish) offered, the division now has a composition class geared to the ins and outs of choreographing in a folk style. This is proving to be a challenging and exciting class for the students!

## Alumni Corner

We hope you will visit the [Alumni web site](#) and see all the new additions since our last update.

- [2007 Summer Tour Photo Album](#)
- [Folk Dance Resources](#)
- [Newsletter archives](#)
- [Site Map](#) (explains all the web pages)



We've hit a new first for the Folk Dancers; we now distribute all the newsletters via email. We have over 800 alumni names in our database. If you know of any alumni that we do not have emails for, please submit them for correspondence. This will be the only way that we can keep you updated with concerts, newsletters, and reunion information going forward.

Thanks for your continued support and suggestions. We still need [Christmas Around the World posters and programs](#), [tour histories and group photos](#), and additional [Folk Dance resources](#). Please look through your boxes and help us locate these items for all to enjoy as we preserve our past.

The following items may be purchased by sending a check for the appropriate amount to:

**BYU Folkdance**  
**261 RB, Brigham Young University**  
**Provo, Utah 84602**

Please include your shipping address where you want items sent!

- **Reflections: Fifty Years of Folk Dance** - Commemorative history book of the past 50 years commissioned for the 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Jubilee Anniversary and reunion.  
(\$40.00 includes shipping & handling. Supplies are limited!)
- **Folk Dance Classics I** (remastered) contains:  
Bucimis, Dopastko Oro, Jove Malaj Mome, Doudlebska Polka, La Bastringue, Krici Krici Ticek, Cocek, Lesno Oro Medley, Alunelul, Ciuleandra, Vulpita, Ersko Kolo, Virginia Reel, Salty Dog Rag, Cotton-eyed Joe and Square Dance.  
(\$23.00 includes shipping & handling)
- **NEW!!! Folk Dance Classics I Instructional DVD**  
(\$23.00 includes shipping & handling)
- **NEW!!! Folk Dance Classics II** contains:  
Giusevska Râçenica, Graovsko Horo, Village Pravo Horo, Vlasko Horo, Cumberland Square, D'hammerschmiedsgelln, Ceili Reel, Erev Ba, Horo Medura, Ya Abud, Yibaneh Hamigdash, Zemer Atik, Batuta Muteneasca, Hora De Mana, Braul Din Făgăraș, Hambo, The Flying Scotsman, Dance Little Bird (Bird Dance).  
(\$23.00 includes shipping & handling)