



The Folk Dancer

Alumni Newsletter

Spring Addition 2009

Editor: Vickie Austin

Christmas Around the World in 2008



Hopak 2008

same nights, and yet it all came together in a miraculous way. (We are grateful that they were all in good shape as they had to run back and forth between the performances.) The audience truly got into the fun and energy of the piece.

Other highlights included “*Balle Balle*” an Indian number in the Bollywood style. This style of dance is really becoming popular among our audiences. “*Tinikling*” was once again heart-stopping as we all hoped no one would be caught by the poles. If you haven’t seen the latest version of this dance, you really have something to look forward to.

Christmas Around the World was a smashing success this past December. The students were compelling to watch, the numbers were outstanding, and the musicians were delightful.

One particular highlight of the production was a Welsh Suite, *Inside Out and Kickin’*, performed by the Performing Arts Company and BYU Men’s Chorus. Putting this together was a monumental task that covered a lot of logistical planning. The choir had their own performance on the



Inside Out & Kickin’ performed with Men’s Chorus



BYU Welsh Dancers surround Ed Austin & Owen Huw Roberts

We had several, very special out-of-town guests visiting us during this time. Ned and Marian Gault visited from California. They are prominent folk dance pioneers and leaders who have donated to us several sets of beautiful costumes from their former group, *Ensemble International*. They spent a couple of days and were able to see the production come together for the stage. We enjoyed watching them “taking it all in.”

Owen Huw Roberts, one of Ed’s mentors in Welsh dancing, also visited all the way from the Isle of Anglesey in Wales. He was able to come and spend an entire week with us and was fascinated with the whole week of *Christmas Around the World*. This was his first time in Utah. He said the Welsh suite, “made him proud to be Welsh.”



Ned and Marian Gault



Christmas Around the World 2008

More About Owen Huw Roberts



Owen Huw Roberts visiting Utah

Ed first met Owen Huw in 1987 during an International Folk Dance Festival in Nice, France. He was coaching two young steppers, Ben and Bobbie (Benjamin Powell and Robert Hughes), from the Colwyn Bay School. From our first encounter, and to this very day, Owen has always been unassuming, quiet, and extremely humble—not the characteristics one might normally use to describe a champion of solo clog dance.

*In her book, *A Step In Time: Folk Dance in Wales*, Emma Lile recognizes Owen Huw Roberts in a genealogical line of steppers alongside Hywel Wood, Bala; Len Roberts, Llanfyllin; and Caradog Puw, Llanuwellyn. Owen learned from Len Roberts. He is included in this illustrious list, while some earlier cloggers are not because as a teacher at the Colwyn Bay School he was able to pass his passion and knowledge of clogging to his students. Since then, he has shared his expertise with*

countless others who, in turn, have also passed on the tradition. In this manner, Owen has become recognized as a key figure in the continuation and perpetuation of clog dancing in Wales. Dawns y Glocsen or Step y Glocsen as Owen prefers it called, can once again be seen performed throughout the entire country. It is believed to be an unbroken tradition transmitted from one generation to the next and Owen is one of the vital links in this chain of uninterrupted cultural dance custom.

Christmas Around the World in 2009, The 50th Edition

Speaking of *Christmas Around the World*, we hope everyone will put December 4th and 5th on their calendars as we reach another remarkable milestone in Folk Dance history. This will be our 50th annual concert. *Christmas Around the World* is the longest continual running concert ever to be presented at BYU. The concert has grown from its earliest beginnings to the professional looking concert of today. We hope to have many of you, our alumni and friends, participate in this commemoration concert. And there will be a very special breakfast/gathering the morning of the Saturday performance where we will all be able to reunite.

Those of you interested in dancing or participating in the opening number of this concert, please contact Dennis Hill (dennyh1952@yahoo.com).

Watch for more information and the specifics of this historical event on the alumni web site as it becomes available (byufolkdance.com/alumni.htm). Please let your folk dance friends, who may not have kept in touch with us, know of this once in a lifetime event.

Come Join Us!

Our annual *Spring Festival of Nations* will be held April 1, 2009 in the Wilkinson Center. The venue will open to the audience at 6:30 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door-\$2.00. The seating will be open seating. Beginning at 7:30 p.m., the audience can enjoy a half hour of music from our talented band. Then, at 8:00 p.m. there will be an informal performance by each of the teams. It is always a fun night of international music and dance.

Performing Arts Company



The *Performing Arts Company* (PAC) has had a very busy semester. Their first show was at the Covey Center for the Arts in Provo on February 13 and 14. They have recently returned from a successful and very satisfying performance tour for audiences in Montana and Wyoming. The troupe presented an exciting concert to sold-out venues throughout the ten day trip.

If you are interested in seeing them in concert this season, their final show will be at the Monticello High School in Monticello, Utah on March 28th at 7:00 pm. Their summer tour to the People's Republic of China will occur during the month of May.

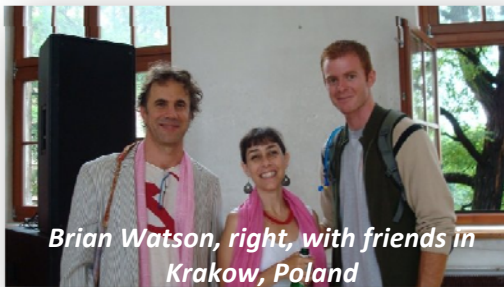
Spring Performing Arts Company

The *Spring Performing Arts Company* (SPAC) will hold their showcase this year on April 3, at 7:30 pm in the Richards Building Theater, 166 RB. Anyone interested in this program is invited to attend.

The group will travel to various schools from Fountain Green to Ogden during April 27th to May 22nd. This year the group is once again under the direction of Delynne Peay.

Student Research in Folk Dance

We have had three students, Cambria Sandstrom, Brian Watson, and Quincy Robinson, do research of cultural dance forms during the past year and they have made presentations in the Department of Dance on their findings.



Brian Watson, right, with friends in Krakow, Poland



Participants of Yiddish Dance conference in Krakow, Poland

Cambria's study was "The Ancient Art of Wu Dao: Cultural Dance in China." Brian traveled to Poland during the month of May to study Yiddish Dance. (Brian also plays in the BYU Klezmer band.) Cambria and Brian were both recipients of a Mary Lou Fulton grant through the College of Health and Human Performance.

Quincy completed a Master's degree at Limerick University in Ireland. While there, he studied Irish Traditional Dance and recently presented some of his findings. Quincy is presently finishing a second Master's Degree in Business at Brigham Young University.

World Dance Division Summer Camps

Our division sponsors three fantastic camps for youth and the youthful old. They are *Folk Dance for Youth* June 15-17, the *Cougar Clogging Classic* June 18-20, and a Tap Dance Camp July 15-17. You can register online at dancecamps.byu.edu. We hope to see you or some of your children at one of our camps. It's a wonderful way to enjoy the BYU experience with moderate expense. Our dance faculty provides excellent programs and we promise your children lots of great instruction and fun!