



The Folk Dancer

2009 Fall Newsletter

Christmas Around the World The 50th Performance...

Dear Alumni,

We are thrilled to have so many of you attending *Christmas Around the World* this year in celebration of this 50th concert. We hope that each of you understand the efforts that have been made to include as many of you as possible in this 50th concert. However, the reality is that we have limited resources in rehearsal time, size of stage, and costuming which create some limitations for all of us. We are so grateful for those who have been able to clear their calendars to be a part of this demanding schedule. We know that this may not be possible for all of you. Thank you for understanding.



The most important part of this weekend for those of us at BYU, is to reunite with those of you who will be making the effort to be with us. We cannot wait to see you ...on stage, in the audience, and at the breakfast. And for those of you who know Mary Bee, she is looking so forward to being with you. We suspect that many of you will be getting together with old friends and creating your own reunion gatherings during the week.



We are so excited to have Dennis Hill and Kathy Reid Bunker directing the opening segment of this concert. It certainly will be spectacular and festive. Greg and Maria Tucker will be directing the closing segment which will be unique and memorable. Many others are also contributing their time and efforts to this historic event.

We are also excited for the musicians who will be performing. *Orange Blossom Special* will probably steal the show. Thanks to Mark Geslison, it should be one of the highlights of the

concert. If any musicians haven't yet contacted Mark, you can do so at markges@byu.edu.

The current students are looking forward to sharing the stage with so many of you who have been a part of this program and continue to support it. It is amazing to think that some of you are their parents! We know that you will be proud and amazed as see for yourselves how they keep the folk dance tradition alive at BYU.

Remember—50 years doesn't come around very often. We will honor the past while celebrating the present. And of course, we are always looking into the future for those students yet to come.

We hope that as many of you as possible will come and enjoy a wonderful concert this year. If you haven't purchased your tickets, you may still do so by calling 801-422-BYU1, 1-800-322-BYU1 or go on line at byutickets.com. Prices range from \$12.00 to \$25.00.

Also don't forget to [register for the Alumni Gala Breakfast](#). This is for all alumni to GET THEIR HOT GALA BREAKFAST RESERVATIONS ASAP. **The online registration will end November 30th, at 5:00 p.m.** We are counting on you. This is NOT just for those who are performing in concert....it is for all of us! What a wonderful time to be together. Part of who we are even today is because of our experiences in the International Folk Dancers! By the way, [you can see who has already signed up to come](#).

Dear Folk Alumni,

We are the coordinators for the Dinner Dance, and seeing as it is the 50th Edition of *Christmas Around the World*, we would love to decorate this event with some of your photos from previous years! If you would like to participate in this, we would love for you to send us these photos via email, so we don't take your originals :) Please send them to Jan Sanderson at sisjanderson@gmail.com, with the subject line of "Folkdance Photos." Thanks so much for your support!

DANCE DEPARTMENT MOVES TO A NEW COLLEGE



The Department of Dance has a new home in the College of Fine Arts and Communications. The move was made official in June 1, 2009. Dean Stephen Jones and his colleagues have made us feel very welcome. We are honored to now work with the talented faculty in the School of Music and the Departments of Theatre and Media Arts, Visual Arts, and Communications. We look forward to a long and creative association with the college.

Later in the summer, the College of Health and Human Performance was dissolved. The Department of Recreation now is aligned with the Marriott School of Business. Exercise Sciences and Health Science moved to the College of Life Sciences.

FACULTY IN ACTION

This past year has been very busy and productive for the Division of World Dance, just see what we have been doing.

∞ **Colleen West**

Delivered papers in Malaga, Spain and Bovek, Slovenia.
Also presented a master class and performed in Spain.
Visited a folk dance festival in Istanbul, Turkey.

∞ **Susanne Davis**

Delivered a paper in Malaga, Spain.

∞ **Delynne Peay**

Faculty development in Spanish dance in Sevilla, Spain.

∞ **Ed Austin**

Adjudicated at the International Music Festival in Llangollen, Wales.
Picked up Welsh clogs and Hungarian Boots in Wales and Hungary.

∞ **Greg Tucker**

Choreographed at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri.

SUMMER 2009-CHINA TOUR

Some Thoughts from Ed about the tour

This tour has afforded us some amazing opportunities. The people we met have been wonderful, and our exchanges with the Beijing Dance Academy, the Minority University, and the Xinghai Conservatory of Music—unforgettable. We learned to enjoy new foods and a uniquely different cultural lifestyle. We have seen incredible, modern cities that have only recently grown out of the ancient landscape, and walked upon historical paths leading to the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City, and the locations where Communism in China had its earliest beginnings. We performed live for thousands of audience members and were viewed nationally on *Tian Tian Xiang Shang* [天天向上], *Up Happy Every Day* for an estimated audience of over a billion people. And we have felt the blessings of a loving Father who has watched over each one of us and allowed us to be part of a great work in this beautiful corner of His vineyard.



I can express my feelings best about our experiences in China through two short memories. The first occurred when we had our first exchange with the Beijing Dance Academy. As I watched the first selection performed by beautiful young women with their exotic pink fans, I remember being overcome with tears as I recognized each one—a daughter of our Father in Heaven. And secondly, as I watched each member of our group lovingly embrace a tearful Sarah and Yanna at the end of our time with them, I knew that we had succeeded in sharing the love that Christ has for all of His children. In essence, I believe this is what we were primarily sent to do in China.

Some Thoughts from Sara Lee Gibb, (Past Dean, CHHP)

Dean Gibb accompanied us on a portion of this tour.

One of the invitees to the concert in Beijing was the Executive Director of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Opening and Closing Ceremonies. He didn't arrive until the reception was basically over so he just met us in the lobby, received his ticket and went in and watched the show. The press people who were there were all about taking pictures of him and he was asked for many



autographs in the lobby, obviously a Chinese celebrity. Afterward, he politely thanked me, said how much he enjoyed the performance, and spent quite some time talking to the dancers. He indicated to our cultural advisor, Jiaming Huang that he would like to come back the following evening. We were surprised at his request and offered to get him a ticket. He asked if he could have three. The following evening he arrived and waited to see if he needed to buy tickets. I was there with the tickets and he graciously accepted them for his wife and 9-year-old daughter.

Again, after the performance he wanted to share how much he was moved by our dancers. He said, "In China there are so many wonderful dancers, but I rarely go to see them perform anymore, and never take my family. The dance is so dark, without hope, and highly dramatic, and full of deep and troublesome meaning. These dancers bring such light and joy and hope, and I wanted my family to experience this. It was



wonderful."

He then said he would love to visit our university, perhaps in November. My impression is that he and his family are fine, sincere people.

SPRING PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY (SPAC)

Some Thoughts from Delynne, director

“An Extraordinary Errand” was the theme for SPAC 2009 team members, which each dancer in turn took to heart. They spoke often about the theme in their morning devotionals, as well as on the dance floor, on the playgrounds, and at other occasions.

The experiences the students have while participating in this group are difficult to define. They are different for each member, but each one is significant. The theme for our show this past May was “Celebrating the World”, and that we did. We added new dances to the repertoire - *Cumbia* from Colombia, *Ot Azoy* from the Yiddish culture, *Harvest*, a soft shoe women’s dance, and *Goudanee*, a fun “character style” dance from Russia, and others. We visited some brand new schools which reached all the way out to Fountain Green, Utah.



More than 32,000 children witnessed the performances, and more than 32,000 lives were touched—including our own!!



2010 MIDSEMESTER TOUR

Midsemester Tour is scheduled February 26 through March 4, 2010. The troupe will be performing in venues throughout Colorado. The cities scheduled are Fort Collins, Longmont and Denver with Colorado Springs and Pueblo pending. For a detailed schedule, please go to pam.byu.edu and see if the Folk Dancers are performing near you.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2009-2010

We want to announce and congratulate the following students for their diligence and hard work. They are very deserving of the scholarships received. We would also like to express our gratitude to the many benefactors who so graciously donate money to fund these scholarships.

Mary Bee Jensen Endowment

Courtney Carter
Erin Maxwell Sorensen

Viltis Scholarship

Tesha Jones
Greg Rawlings

Performance Missionary Award

Sally Boyle
Jeremy Gohier
Colin Slade

Marion Jensen Scholarship

Amy Slade

Excellence in Folk Arts

Katie Shepherd Harman

Harman Service Award

Brian Watson

Norma Pardoe Anderson Performance Endowment

Cindy Swenson

Costumes for Sale

- ✧ 2 large brown dress shirts (used for clogging)
- ✧ 12 black belts
- ✧ 8 pair “Hutsul” pants—rust w/trim down sides
- ✧ 5 short blue wool Polish jackets w/ mustard colored pants
- ✧ 3 long wool w/felt trim Polish jackets w/purple & lavender pants
- ✧ 4 black short jersey skirts
- ✧ 13 white satin Irish blouses
- ✧ 3 white cotton women’s blouses
- ✧ 1 Romanian woman’s blouse
(gauze material with blue trim)

For more information please contact
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