



The Folk Dancer

2010 Spring Newsletter

Christmas Around the World 50th Celebration



Christmas Around the World 2009 was definitely a “magical memory” as we celebrated 50 years of Christmas Around the World. It was such great fun to reunite with so many of you as you came to dance, visit, and watch. It was a wonderful concert as the students did a superb job of presenting the numbers they had worked on so diligently throughout the semester. Kudos to them and to their team directors (Jeanette Geslison, Delynne Peay, Rustin Van Katwyk, Colleen West and Emilee Wright) for a job well done. And thanks to Ed for bringing it all together in a beautiful celebration of culture.

We would also like to thank Kathy Bunker and Dennis Hill for the engaging opener involving alumni and current students. They worked so hard to get everyone looking sharp. And thanks to Greg and Maria Tucker for their energetic finale. We have heard so many positive remarks about the concert.

We would also like to express appreciation to Russ Wood (MC and public relations), Susanne Davis, Larry Beaudin and Christine Holding and all their helpers for a memorable breakfast celebration. We appreciate Mary Bee for her enthusiasm and push to make it all happen and Karl Wesson and Brent Viertel for hosting Mary Bee. And Brent Lewis was incredible in the way he accommodated everyone’s request for the website. He is so incredibly diligent in getting out all of the information.

We also want to thank each of you for your friendship and continued support of the Folk Dance program. Our only regret was that we didn’t get to visit with all of you personally. But we did get to catch up with many of you and the “visiting” was the best part of the entire event, (at least that is how many of us feel). Best wishes to each of you for a wonderful 2010!

New Serbian Suite

A new Serbian suite, *Haj'd Povedi Veselo*, was set on the Performing Arts Company in August before school began this year by expert Michael Malich from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Bringing Michael to work with the students, and arranging for the costumes to be sewn in Serbia was all made possible by a grant which Ed received through the College of Fine Arts and Communications.



Michael presently directs a Serbian group in Milwaukee and is a former Duquesne University Tamburitzan, as well as being Serbian himself. The students had a wonderful experience working through this piece. They worked very hard as Mike is quite the task master. Michael also oversaw the construction of the costumes in Serbia and then traveled to Serbia in order to personally deliver them to BYU.

Many of the students commented on how this experience was the perfect way to bring the entire group together at the beginning of the new year.

Hungarian Mania

Previous to the beginning of our Fall Semester, our students had the opportunity to watch a very nice Hungarian group, the Bartók Táncgyűttes Ensemble that danced in the Springville Folkfest, Bountiful, and Salt Lake festivals. They also participated in a workshop presented at Brigham Young University where the director, Miklós Teszáry taught steps and figures from Szatmar. Ed had previously met Miklós in Budapest during the summer when he was there meeting with the director of the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble and picking up newly made boots. We had a wonderful collaboration during the festival week and enjoyed spending time together. The Bartok group had occasion to borrow a pair of our boots during their stay here and we were delighted to assist them. (We discovered that the same boot maker in Hungary made boots for both of our groups.) They then offered to make us beaded necklaces for our new Szatmar costumes and then also left us their Uveges bottles and Botolo sticks. We became good friends and had a wonderful time together.



While in Budapest, Ed met with Gábor Mihályi (Misi), artistic director of the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble, and made arrangements for him to come to the BYU and work with the Performing Arts Company. (His initial contact with Misi had been made when the troupe was in Hungary in 2008) Final plans were made for Misi to arrive New Year's Eve with partner, Nikoletta Bánhegyi (Niki).

It turned out to be a once in a lifetime experience for the students as they worked for 10 days on a new Rabaközi choreography presented by Misi. Misi and

Niki worked well with the students as they spent a lot of time on styling,

improvisation, and choreography. The Hungarian class also had the privilege of having them come teach the first week of the semester. They also spoke to the composition class. We really kept them busy.

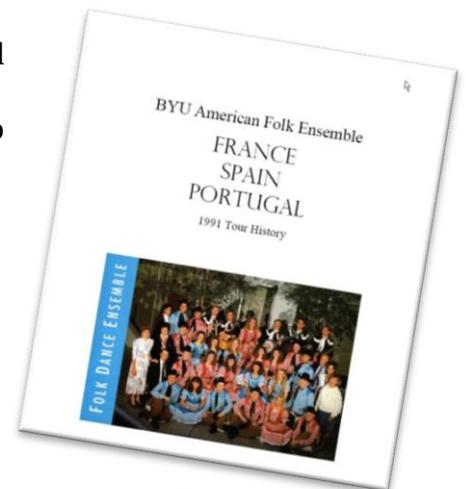
In addition, Misi and Niki had a memorable experience with the students and became very attached to the group. We all had marvelous time learning from this Hungarian dance master and now feel as though we have lifelong friends in Hungary. Misi was also kind enough to have his musicians in Hungary produce the music for the number he choreographed. And then, as a special surprise, he offered for them to also produce new music for our Szatmar suite.

He taught us much during his stay. He explained that, “tradition was the language with which I express myself.” His new choreography, entitled *The Last Dance*, is dynamic and beautiful and has now premiered in the group’s mid-semester concert. In Hungary’s history, the army recruited young men into the war through dance and music. This choreography portrays that moment when the men perform their last dance with the women before going to war. This choreography from the region of Rabaköz includes a verbunk, lassú csárdás, friss csárdás, and dus.

1991 Tour History finished!

From Blain Empey and Tamara Chamberlain

Have you heard? The history for the 1991 tour to France, Spain, and Portugal has been completed! Tamara Marshall Chamberlain and Blain Empey worked to gather entries, pictures, articles, and links to produce the final document, which is now available to read on the Folk Dance Alumni web site (byufolkdancealumni.com). This was the last ‘old’ tour history missing—now we just need to get the advice to those responsible for the 2008 and the 2009 tours: Don’t procrastinate! You don’t want to lose the details and you may not have the fantastic resources Tamara and I had in finishing this one. And if you are dreading all the work: Don’t! It was a fantastic experience!



Interestingly, this history has a history. Greg Mayne and Kristi King were originally responsible for the task. Greg had planned on gathering material for it on the trip home from Lisbon, Portugal. Unfortunately, our flight that day was cancelled, and chaos ensued. Tour leadership did a great job in getting individuals who had weddings and graduations home in time for these important events, and the rest of us were overjoyed and utilized an unplanned day in Lisbon as tourists! Most were happy with the turn of events; however, no one was able to collect the history as we had all scattered. In addition to this road block, our culture class required journals, and many journals with tour histories included were lost to that academic fiasco.

After 18 years, Tamara and Blain volunteered to coordinate efforts in finishing this important document. We contacted as many alumni as had e-mail addresses and begged for entries. Luckily, we both had detailed journals. Delynne Peay, the artistic director for that tour, had some important documents as well as her own journal (a very interesting perspective not all histories get: what leadership thought of us!). Mike Ingols was amazing and typed out his entire (and comprehensive) journal as well. Andy Madsen sent four or five entries and was willing to do more. Rex Barrington

sent pictures and a hilarious story. Scott Horman and Jonathon Wood were very helpful in getting old articles and other resources used in adding detail. And Brent Lewis was invaluable in getting us in touch with everyone involved with that tour.

Finally, even those who couldn't provide information were very encouraging and supportive. Tamara and Blain want everyone to know that putting it all together was like reliving tour—and it was fantastic. Hopefully, all who read it can enjoy that same experience. Thanks for everyone's work, great and small!

Midsemester Tour to Colorado: February 26 - March 6

Date	Time	City	State	Venue	Contact	Telephone
2/26	5:30 pm	Fort Collins	Colorado	Lincoln Center		
2/26	7:30 pm	Fort Collins	Colorado	Lincoln Center		
2/27	3:00 pm	Fort Collins	Colorado	Lincoln Center		
2/27	7:30 pm	Fort Collins	Colorado	Lincoln Center		
3/2	7:30 pm	Longmont	Colorado	Vance Brand Civic Auditorium	Robert Auman	(303)746-0663
3/3	7:30 pm	Denver	Colorado	Colorado Heights University	Linda Murri	(303)840-2133
3/4	7:30 pm	Alamosa	Colorado	Adams State College	Ross Coombs	(719)850-3552
3/5	7:30 pm	Pueblo	Colorado	East High School Auditorium	Danna Klemm	719-547-4107
3/6	7:00 pm	Delta	Colorado	Delta Performing Arts Center	Dan Jester	(970)249-5775

Other Dates to Remember

Date	Time	City	State	Venue	Contact	Telephone
3/20	7:30 pm	Rexburg	Idaho	Hart Auditorium	Don Sparhawk	(208) 496-1152
4/10	8:00 pm	Ivins	Utah	Tuacahn Outdoor Theater	Kevin Smith	(435) 650-3307
8/3 - 8/14	8:30 pm	Nauvoo	Illinois			

- ☆ The group recently premiered their midsemester show on February 5 and 6 at the Covey Center in Provo to a large and enthusiastically receptive audience.
- ☆ The troupe also performed in Arimo, Idaho, February 20.
- ☆ Spring Festival of Nations will be held March 31st, in the Wilkinson Center ballroom. This is our culminating event for the year and is always a lot of fun. At 7:30 p.m., *Mountain Strings*, our excellent band will delight the audience with many favorite selections. Then, at 8:00 a folk showcase of all the classes will be presented. Everyone is invited to come. A nominal fee of \$3.00 is charged at the door.

World Dance Showcase

The Spring Performing Arts Company will officially be know now as the World Dance Showcase. They have the prestigious opportunity to perform at the AAPHERD conference in Indiana on March 19. Eight couples from the group have been chosen to represent our division at the conference. The annual presentation of their show for elementary schools will be presented April 8 in the Richard's Building theater (169 RB) at 7:30 p.m.

Alumni Corner

- ☆ Hope you're visiting the [music download page](#) and taking advantage of the **FREE MP3s** that we put up for you. Great music from the folk bands through the years that is being made available for you to download.
- ☆ Check out the [CAW 50th Reunion pics](#) that have been submitted.

- ☆ There was an interesting thread started on FaceBook by Dennis Wright asking if anyone still had plastic hangers with masking tape on them with their initials from folk dance tours. The response was surprising! Many alumni went to their closets and did find those very hangers hiding. Some have more marked hangers than others still in their possession. What a wonderful memory those hangers brought back reminding us of great times and great friends.

FolkBook

Jeremy Gohier (a current folk dancer on PAC) has set up a site for current folk dancers on **byufolkdance.ning.com**. This site is used for current members, events, photos, forums, etc. Visitors are welcome to the site but deeper access into this site requires you to sign up and become a member of FolkBook. Once a member you would receive emails of current events in the dance program. This does not replace the alumni site, just another way for you to stay connected with the current dancers.

[Visit FolkBook!](http://byufolkdance.ning.com)

