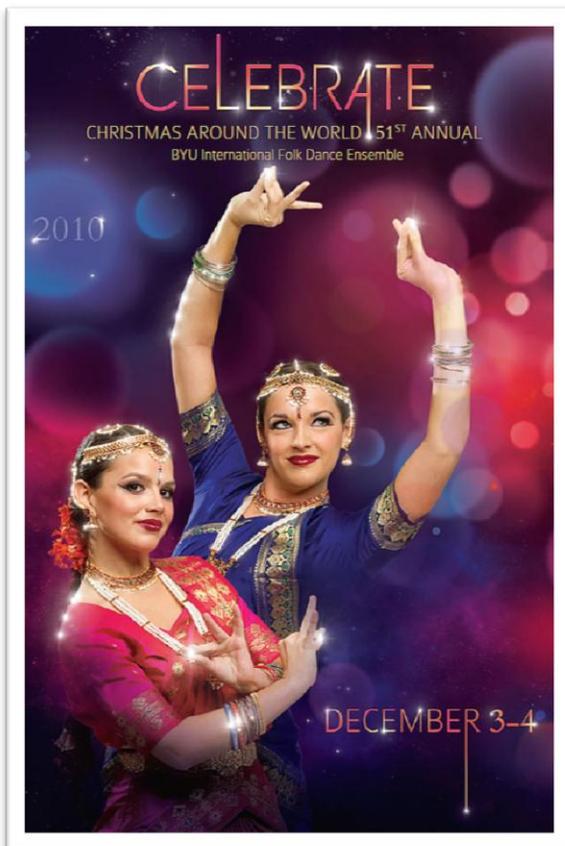


# The Folk Dancer

2010 Fall Newsletter

Editor: Vickie Austin



Come to *Christmas Around the World* December 3 and 4 and ... “CELEBRATE!” Evening performances begin at 7:30pm and the Saturday Matinee, 2pm. Join us as we begin our next 50 years of *Christmas Around the World*. This year we will premiere an exciting new women’s classical Indian Bharata Natyam, choreographed by Divya Narayanan, a new Hungarian Szatmar suite of Uveges and Botolo by Jeanette Geslison, and revisit an old clogging number, “Buckin’ Appalachia—the Next Generation,” revised by Ed Austin, Michael Steele, and Greg Tucker. This American classic will culminate in a frenzy of precision clog figures with almost 100 cloggers from the community directed by Greg and Maria Tucker.

In addition, Living Legends will light up our stage in a special guest performance of music and dance

from Mexico and New Zealand.

There will be a reception in the Cougar Room in the Marriott Center directly after the matinee performance on Saturday, December 4 (at about 3:45pm). We hope you will join us either after the show or before attending the evening show.

Tickets are on sale now. Prices are \$12.00, \$15.00, and \$25.00. You may order tickets by calling the Marriott Center ticket office at 801-422-BYU1 or 1-800-322-BYU1. We look forward to sharing the joy of this holiday season as we celebrate together.





## PAC in Nauvoo

Since 2004, the Missionary Department has invited BYU performing groups to provide entertainment each summer in Nauvoo to create new bonds and outreach opportunities with communities in the surrounding area. This year the Performing Arts Company spent two glorious weeks performing in Nauvoo and in surrounding

areas August 1–14.

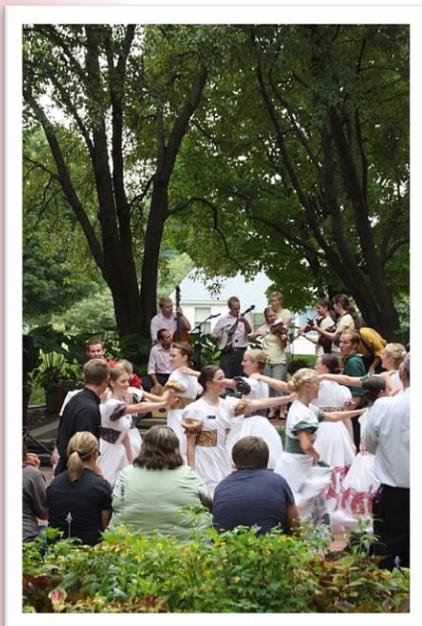
The first week of the visit of the International Folk Dance Ensemble in Nauvoo went very well. The group had very large audiences of close to 800 people each night while performing on the Nauvoo outdoor stage.

The dance and music of the Folk Dancers really struck a chord with audience members who thoroughly enjoyed the performances, so much so that during one performance they actually began dancing through the aisles. The excitement was electrifying.



Emily Bills (L) and Jarelle Fuller (R) spend a few moments with a young new friend following the performance in Carthage, IL.

The early days of Nauvoo would have seen many immigrants from some of the countries that the Folk Dancers represented both in music and dance. Our early-American songs and fiddle



tunes that you can hear in the show may have been heard in the celebrations of Nauvoo as well. For these reasons, this group of musicians and dancers brought a fitting spirit to this historic city.

Unique to this tour in Nauvoo, Mountain Strings (the live bluegrass band for the group) also had the opportunity to add their musical flavor to Nauvoo and the surrounding communities. They performed on their own several times including in the Carthage City Center Park as well as at the Bentensport Pavilion in Fairfield, Iowa.

The weekend ended strongly with a nearly sold out audience for a full 90-minute show in the Sondheim Center for the Performing Arts in Fairfield, Iowa. This was a unique and special performance because many of the audience members had either ties to the countries represented in the performance or work with dance groups who specialize in dances from these countries represented. In each case, they were impressed with the quality of the show.



Alina Geslison, a member of the ensemble's live band, talks with an audience member following a performance on the outdoor stage in Nauvoo.



Dancer Katie Harmon teaches an audience member at the Quincy Senior and Family Resource Center to the dance "Southern Waltz."

Katie Harmon, one of the folk dancers, visited with a woman who moved to the USA ten years ago from Bulgaria. Katie reports, "The woman was so impressed with the group's accent as we sang 'Sto Mi E Milo I Drago', that she had to check the program to make sure we were not Bulgarian."

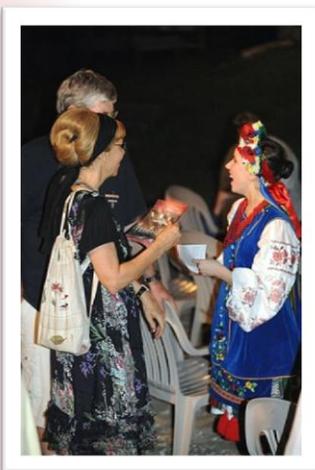
Justin Kelly, another folk dancer, told of his conversation with a woman who directs the dance group, Kudrinka, in Moscow, Russia. She said, "We are very proud of what we do in Moscow, but if you ever come to Moscow, you would do well performing alongside our group. You would look like you belong there, and could hold your heads up high."

Justin Kelly, another folk dancer, told of his conversation with a woman who directs the dance



Joshua Park wows the audience with his jump splits in the Ukrainian "Hopak" the signature piece of International Folk Dance Ensemble.

Ed said, "Nauvoo is a unique place in Mormon history that provides a very special opportunity for the Latter-day Saint performer. The feelings and emotions of this sacred place, added to the energy of a welcoming audience each night, created the perfect venue for dynamic and heartfelt performances."



Sally Boyle takes a moment to connect with audience members following an evening performance.

## Susanne Davis Retires

Susanne Johnson Davis retired this past August 2010. Susanne has been a long time faculty member of the Physical Education and Dance Department—since 1971. She was the World Dance Division administrator for 20 years. She has always added great expertise and lots of fun to the division, and has kept us all on our toes.



Many of the classes offered in the Dance Department were developed by Susanne such as Country Western and Square Dance, Rhythm and Dance and Dance: A Reflection of Culture. She was also instrumental in creating the Ethnic dance program in our World Dance division.

Besides her long time assignment as division administrator, Susanne has also served as president of PHI KAPPA PHI, Vice president of Dance for UAAPHERD and the Southwest district of AAPHERD. She also served as president in the Southwest district as well as other distinctive areas of service.

While teaching at BYU she has received such awards as the “Karl G. Maesar Distinguished Teacher of the Year”, “Alcuin Fellow in General Education” and the College of Health and Human Performance “Faculty Teaching Excellence Award.”

On September 23, 2010, Susanne was able to share with us her “last lecture” entitled *The World is our Campus...It’s True*. It was delightful to hear from her one last time.

She is actually still working this semester on the monumental project of gathering historical information for the entire Dance Department. Thank you Susanne for all you have done for the Folk Dance Division.

## Performing Arts Company Winter 2011 Performance Schedule

The Performing Arts Company begins their performance season early in winter semester. Their first show will be in Mesquite, Nevada, January 22. On January 29 they will perform in Pocatello, Idaho. Next will be performances at the LDS Conference Center in Salt Lake City,



February 18 and 19. Mid-semester Tour will begin February 26 and run through March 5 as they travel through Reno, Nevada and Northern California. There are other scheduled performances in St. George, Mesquite, Provo, and Idaho. As you can see they have a very busy schedule ahead of them. For more detailed information please go to [pam.byu.edu](http://pam.byu.edu).



Alumnus Nina Woodbury Booth and her family have made a very generous donation to the alumni scholarship fund. Combined with other donations from our alumni, it is now possible to create a new half- tuition endowed scholarship. Nina, thank you so much!

The Cheryl Liptack Estate has also provided two half-tuition scholarships for each of the divisions in the Dance Department. We are thrilled to be able to help more of our hardworking students in the World Dance program.

## **World Dance Showcase**

The Spring Performing Arts Company (SPAC) has changed their name and is now known as World Dance Showcase (WDS ... try that one on for size!) They had an outstanding season in May of this year performing for numerous elementary schools. The children are always so excited to see the dancers and are inspired by their performance. The performance season for 2011 is shaping up nicely and the group will have another full agenda April 26–May 20. They also have the opportunity to represent the Folk Dancers in Nauvoo for two weeks in June. If your child's elementary school (from Nephi to Logan) would be interested in booking a show, call 801-422-4283 in September of each year.



# BYU Camps

Folk Camp and Clog Camp will be held June 13–15 and June 16–18, 2011. These two camps are great for learning new and fun material, making friends and having a BYU experience. For detailed information go to [dancecamps.byu.edu](http://dancecamps.byu.edu).

Christmas Around the World? Come Learn How at .....

Brigham Young University  
*Summer Dance Camps*

**International Folk Dance**  
JUNE 13 - 15, 2011

This summer, "travel the world" with the magic and music of international folk dancing! Enjoy three days of vigorous dancing, beautiful music, and imaginative instruction! Learn dances from a variety of world cultures. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or just eager to perform some of the world's most exciting dances, you'll learn skills at this camp that will enhance every aspect of your life! The fun, lively movements of folk dancing will increase your balance, agility, strength, and coordination while improving your awareness of the cultures in current world events.

Registration Begins February 9, 2011.  
For more information, please go to:  
<http://dancecamps.byu.edu>

**Cougar Clogging Classic**  
JUNE 16 - 18, 2011

Whether you're a director, instructor, or student, you will have some great clogging action in store! You'll experience the **newest dances** and the most dynamic clogging instruction in the West from special guest instructors, including two members from the sensational group **The Fab Five**, finalists in *America's Got Talent!*

**Intermediate and Advanced Students:** Gear up for three days of exciting instruction and foot-stomping music! Dance in some of the finest facilities in the country. See the action magnified from floor-to-ceiling mirrors, hear the enthusiasm of fired-up hands and feet, and feel the excitement and rhythm from suspended hardwood floors. Enroll now for some of the best dancing days of the summer!

## Fall Semester

This fall semester has been very busy for the Folk Dancers. The Performing Arts Company completed a successful run of World of Dance in the beginning of September. They also performed for a delegation of Ukrainian judges, a special luncheon for the Slovakian Ambassador, and the annual Symposium on Law and Religion sponsored by the J. Reuben Clark School of Law. Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, the ensemble will perform in the Dance Department assembly held in the Marriott Center.

The back-up team also performed in the Worldance Concert at Kingsbury Hall on November 5<sup>th</sup> sponsored by Eastern Arts, and by invitation of Katherine St. John and Lloyd Miller.

The entire international folk dance club participated in the Homecoming Parade in October. This is always a great event as the students dance through the streets of Provo.

## Special Recreational Dance Evening

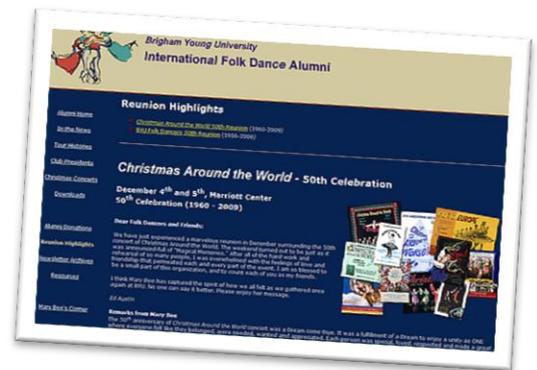
November 3<sup>rd</sup> was a special night at one of our Recreational Dance Nights for team members and friends. Ercument Kilic from Istanbul delighted the group with dances from Turkey and Georgia. Ercument was in Utah to perform in the Eastern Arts Worldance concert held at Kingsbury Hall on the University of Utah. It was so much fun to learn from him as he shared his expertise.

## ALUMNI WEBSITE

We want to thank Brent Lewis for the wonderful work he is doing with the alumni website. If you are new to our alumni family, you should take a look at all that is there for you. If you haven't visited the alumni home page [[byufolkdancealumni.com](http://byufolkdancealumni.com)] recently, you may be interested in some of the following new additions.

## What's new on the site:

- ✓ Check out the long lost [Tour Histories of 1982, 1991, and 2008.](#)
- ✓ [Folk Dance CD and DVD samples](#) (Classics Vol. 1 & 2: dance notes, MP3 samples, teaching video samples)
- ✓ [Download MP3s from 1976, 1988, and 1993](#) (Audio MP3s that are available for personal use)
- ✓ [Site Map](#) (A list of every page on this site for easy access)



## WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP!

We are still hoping that some of you might be able to come forward with *Christmas Around the World* posters for the following years:

1961, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1981, and 1982.

Brent Lewis will have them scanned and return them to you in pristine condition and then we can all share them on the web.

## Folk Dancer Demographics (Where are our alumni today?)

1500 emails were sent out requesting alumni info and only 345 alumni returned their information for us to update our alumni database. Please take the time to return the information if you haven't yet. Your info will help us serve you better.

Also, of the alumni reporting back so far, Mary Bee had 164 dancer/musicians and Ed had 181 dancers/musicians. That means we still don't know where 1155 of you are and what years you danced. Please reply back and let us know.

We are consistently gathering better data in our folk dance database regarding our folk dance alumni.

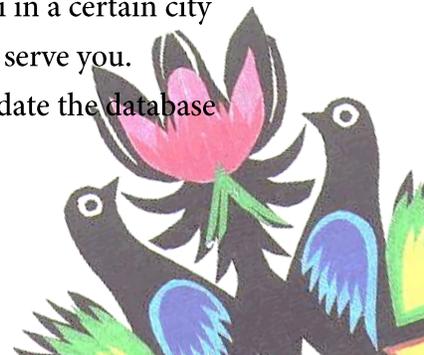
If you could take a few minutes at your earliest convenience and tell us...

- \* Your preferred email (shared or separate if spouse was a folk dancer)
- \* Specific years you danced/played with the folk dancers (example 1971–1973, etc.)
- \* MAIDEN NAME (MARRIED NAME) for the women
- \* spouse's name if he/she was a folk dancer
- \* musician, dancer, tour leadership, or technician
- \* city
- \* state
- \* Preferred phone number

**PLEASE EMAIL:** [alumni@byufolkdancealumni.com](mailto:alumni@byufolkdancealumni.com)

We get requests frequently from the folk dance office if we have a list of alumni in a certain city or state and currently we can't gather that information. This will better help us serve you.

Anytime you have a change in the above information, let us know and we'll update the database.





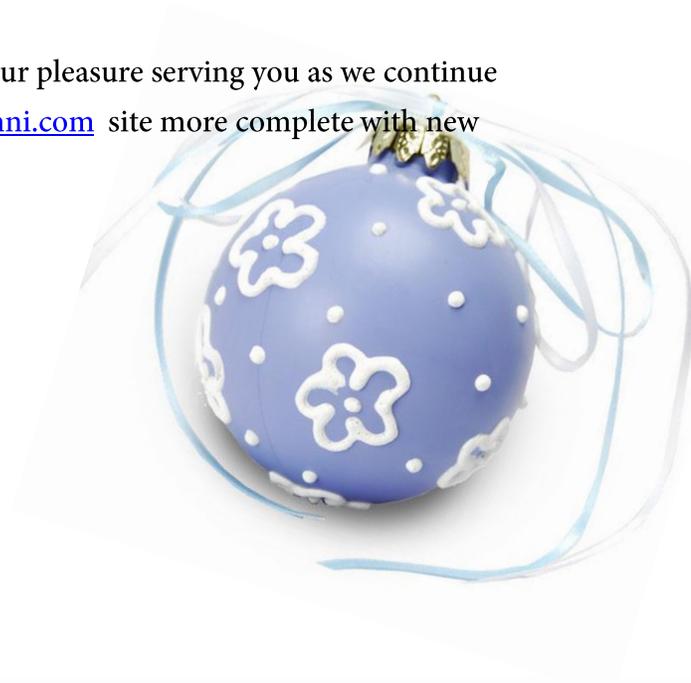
to be current. This information is only available to the folk dance office and isn't shared outside the organization.

Thank you for all your support. Our alumni database keeps getting better and better as we keep our alumni connected.

Here is a breakdown of what we've gather so far from alumni demographics.

2 - West Virginia	17 - Nevada	19 - Idaho	1 - United Kingdom
1 - Wisconsin	1 - New Mexico	1 - Hawaii	1 - United Arabs Emeritus
16 - Washington	3 - New Jersey	2 - Georgia	1 - Switzerland
16 - Virginia	1 - Nebraska	3 - Florida	1 - Morocco
237 - Utah	2 - Mississippi	1 - Delaware	1 - Mexico
15 - Texas	4 - Missouri	1 - Washington D.C.	1 - Japan
2 - Tennessee	1 - Montana	1 - Connecticut	1 - England
1 - South Carolina	3 - Maryland	13 - Colorado	1 - Denmark
1 - Pennsylvania	2 - Louisiana	46 - California	1 - Canada
8 - Oregon	4 - Kansas	27 - Arizona	
1 - Oklahoma	2 - Indiana	1 - Alabama	
4 - Ohio	3 - Illinois	2 - Arkansas	
4 - New York			

As always we thank you for your continued support. It's our pleasure serving you as we continue to gather alumni and making our [www.byufolkdancealumni.com](http://www.byufolkdancealumni.com) site more complete with new items we keep getting from you.



*Merry Christmas!*

*We hope to see you at the concert and reception.*

