

THE FOLK DANCER

2011 Fall Newsletter

Editor: Emilee Wright

Christmas Around the World - "A Timeless Journey"

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at *Christmas Around the World* this year! CAW will be held December 2nd and 3rd at 7:30 pm with a matinee on the 3rd starting at 2:00 pm. This year our concert will include new choreography from Ukraine, Transylvania, India, Hungary and American clogging!

Our show will open with the Scandinavian Christmas tradition of dancing around the Christmas tree accompanied by our Mountain Strings band. Don't miss this year's exciting display of "a timeless journey" through dance and tradition, as all our great students perform!

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

Tickets go on sale October 31st at the Marriot Center Ticket Office. You may order tickets by calling 801-422-BYU1 or 1-800-322-BYU1. We look forward to sharing the joy of this holiday season together.

Summer 2011: PAC Tour – An overview



Summer tour this year included the Danube Carnival Festival in Budapest, and the Zlatna Sopela festival in Porec, Croatia. Both were fantastic experiences. It is believed that the group was the first American group to ever participate in the Zlatna Sopela.



The tour began in Budapest, Hungary with a three-hour interactive activity for young single adults in Budapest. This activity directly followed a seminary graduation for the youth of the stake. A local TV station attended both events to film a mini-documentary on the youth of the church. The first performance in the Budapest area was in the village of Budakalasz. A normal part of folk festivals involves the performing group finding dance partners from the audience for 30 to 40 minutes of learning dances from their country. The result of our group teaching American dances was very positive. A very special folk dance moment occurred in Budapest as the BYU Folk Dancers, the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble, and the Duna Art Ensemble all partnered up with each other in their respective costumes to

dance "Szatmari" together in a gala performance. The audience loved the dance, but of course it was a huge highlight for the dancers.

The following week the group traveled to Czech Republic. Wednesday night was a performance in the heart of the old town of Prague. The group shared the stage with Dvorana, a local Czech dance group. Dvorana is unique in that they perform not just Czech dances, but dances from around the world. They performed their Mexican number and their Appalachian dance which the BYU



musicians learned and played for them. Wednesday night, our group taught a workshop on advanced clogging techniques to cloggers from 20 different groups from around Prague. When the group arrived in Zagreb, there was seemingly bad news. The air conditioner in the theater had broken down and the show was cancelled. But, permission was granted and the group was able to perform outside in a busy square in downtown Zagreb. The church is small in Croatia and the branch in Zagreb even smaller. However, the group performed a short program just for the members in the church building. This get together was good for the members and the dancers as they were reminded of the worldwide nature of the church.



The final week of tour for the Folk Dancers saw them in Porec, Croatia as part of the Zlatna Sopela Folk Festival. Performances during the festival were framed by the surrounding architecture dating from the Roman Empire. The dancers performed six nights during the week, participated in three parades, and presented five small close-up animations throughout the town of Porec. This year marked the group's return to this festival after more than 40 years. During this festival, the Folk Dancers made friends with the groups from Turkey, Serbia, Macedonia, Portugal, Italy, Vietnam and Croatia. As the tour wrapped up, the students felt they had done their best to build friendships in each city. Tour participants will always remember performing with the Hungarian State Ensemble in Budapest, participating in a workshop by a top Hungarian Folk Dance expert, seeing many of the styles of dance in person that the group had studied while being part of the Folk Dance Ensemble and experiencing the important historical sites in each country.



WORLD DANCE SHOWCASE —DELYNNE PEAY

We chose “Windows to the World” for the name of our SPAC Show, and I really tried to express this idea through the narrations for each country. I felt strongly about the words we used to explain this concept—that by looking through a cultural window, we could learn and enjoy so much about people from all parts of the globe. One of our dancers gave a devotional the first week that really put this idea into focus for the group. She said, “The eyes are the windows to the soul. Let our eyes shine for all to see the love that we have for these children.” We performed for more than 37,000 children at 56 schools traveling from Sunset to Santaquin.



Our group was then privileged to spend two glorious weeks in “The City Beautiful”, or Nauvoo, along with 6 talented musicians performing, giving service, seeing sites, and just sharing the gospel through music and dance. We kept ourselves very busy with civic center theater performances, our nightly outdoor stage performances, brown bag lunch performances in the parks,

outreach shows in Senior Citizen facilities, as well as three separate service projects; a Fireside “Sociable” at the Nauvoo Stake Center, and a wonderful dance/music activity with a Youth Conference group from the Joliet Stake, Illinois, and cleaning up camp following a Youth Bible Camp for children around the Nauvoo area. So successful and memorable!

News in the Dance Department and the World Dance Division

There have been some new and exciting changes going on here in the Dance Department. Marilyn Berrett is the new department chair with associate chairs Cathy Black and Curt Holman. Closer to home, the World Dance Division has also experienced many changes! Ed Austin is currently on sabbatical and Jeanette Geslison is the artistic director for our Performing Arts Company and *Christmas Around the World*. Susanne Johnson Davis didn’t stay home for long after retiring – she is currently serving a CES mission in Hawaii! One of our alumni, Amy Jex has also joined the World Dance Faculty.

Our Performing Arts Company participated in *World of Dance* here on campus where they performed “Step of the Heart” and “Keltatak” from Ireland, “Syracovy” and “Karicka” from Slovakia and “Bharata Natayam” from India. Their performances continued in Homecoming Spectacular with a new “Hungarian Suite” choreographed by Jeanette Geslison. It included a women’s bottle dance, a men’s stick dance and a “Szatmar” couple dance. The music was newly recorded this summer by the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble musicians in Budapest. Our men’s chorus here at BYU joined to sing the Szatmari songs at the end of the suite. Homecoming Spectacular was Oct. 6th and 7th at the Marriott Center.

Something else we’re excited about for homecoming this year was the parade! As always we tore up the parade route with some exciting dances, but this time we have decided to return to tradition and wear costumes! The parade was Oct. 8th.

We have offered a new class this fall, Percussive Dance Styles class! Greg Tucker is be teaching clogging, tap, power tap, French Canadian and Irish, as well as a combination of all of the step styles together! Emilee Wright has been training in Indian dance recently and will be teaching a new Indian Ethnic class in winter semester 2012 that will cover parts of Bharata Natyam, Mohiniyattam, Bhangara and Bollywood. World Dance Composition is also on rotation this winter semester. Our World Dance students are so excited to have a composition class focused on the World Dance forms!

We have also changed the World Dance minor and have included the MAP sheet for the newly required courses.

Some of our students had the opportunity to attend the Stockton Folk Dance Camp in California this summer. Mike Romney, Thomas Call, Lynette Yorgason and Emily Kleinkopf were so excited to attend and brought back some new and exciting dances for the rest of us to learn! Taylor Jones and David Lewis also attended the Ti Ti Tabor Hungarian Dance Camp in Seattle, WA.

New Choreography for our Performing Arts Company

We are so excited to have new choreography from Ukraine this year! Luba Grekova was here to set a new piece from the “Volyn” area of Ukraine. It is a fast paced high energy piece that leaves no rest for the weary. Luba is originally from Russia and moved to Ukraine to perform with the famous “Pavlo Virsky Ukrainian Dance Company”. She met her husband Yuri while dancing with the Virsky Company and they eventually immigrated to Canada where they now live in Toronto. They direct their own Ukrainian Dance Company there. Luba is an expert in her field of training and is a fabulous dancer. We learned so much from her. The costumes for this new piece are being constructed right now in Lviv, Ukraine.

We are also looking forward to a new gypsy piece from Szaszcsavas, Transylvania. Richard Balazs from Hungary, but living in Pennsylvania, is coming to BYU in October to set the piece. It will include two new men’s dances and a couple dance.

Scholarship Recipients

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: Katrina Lewis Pearson, Justin Kelly
- Excellence in Folk Arts: Lynette Yorgason, Mike Romney
- Viltis: Brittany Leavitt, Ion Cervinski
- Harman: Tyler Walker
- Anderson Performance: Tanner Pearson
- Performance Missionary: Cody Phillips, Reed Carter
- Cherill Liptak: David Lewis, Jarelle Fuller
- New Scholarship: Jessica Philbrick Shepherd

Upcoming PAC Performances

February 17th, 2012 – College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls, Idaho

March 2nd, 2012 – Elko Convention Center, Elko, Nevada

March 3rd, 2012 – Austad Aud., Browning Center, Ogden, UT

March 29th, 2012 – Covey Center for the Arts, Provo, UT

April 21st, 2012 – Sevier Calley Center, Richfield, UT

April 28th to May 20th, 2012 – Summer tour to Farmington and Alamogordo, New Mexico and El Paso, Midland, Austin, San Antonio, Harlingen, Laredo, Corpus Christi, Denton, Dallas, Beaumont and Houston, Texas and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Other Upcoming Performances

March 10th, 2012 - Spring Festival of Nations, BYU, Provo

November 15th, 2011 – Savion Glover Performance at BYU, Provo

March 8th, 2010 – Red Army Chorus Performance at BYU, Provo

Alumni Corner

The [tour history](#) for 2010 has been added along with group photos of 2009 and 2011. Does anyone have a group photo of 2003 or 2000? We'd love to add those to the site.

[Club Presidents](#) page along with the [Tour Locations](#) page has also been updated.

Thank you for your updates to our [In Memoriam](#) page. It has been wonderful to have alumni continue to help us remember those who we need to continue to recognize from our folk dance family.

Don't forget to get your *Christmas Around the World* tickets if you're going to be in the area December 2nd and 3rd. We'd love to see you at the reception that will be following the matinee performance on Saturday 3rd in the Cougar room. About 4:00 pm.

If there are any other things you'd love to see on the [BYU Folk Dance Alumni](#) web site, please let us know. We are also looking for some creative designers to help us give the site a new face-lift. The site is now 6 years old and needs an update. Email [Brent Lewis](#) if you have some ideas, he'd love to have some help.

Springville World Folk Festival – Volunteers needed!

Hello Folkdance Alumni!

The Springville World Folk Festival is growing and reorganizing, and we'd love you to be a part of it! We need volunteers for almost every aspect of the festival and we are especially looking for people who love folkdance and love people from around the world. That would be you!!

Our greatest needs are currently for a Fundraising Director and Group Coordinator (working directly with the international and local groups that come to participate). However, we have over 50 spots to fill in the following areas: Marketing/Publicity, Facilities, Vendors, Production, Fundraising, Finance, Group Coordination, Events, History and Housing.

We are also working on matching a large donation given to us (that will be doubled if we reach our mark), so if the help you can give right now is money instead of time that would also be appreciated. I've been working with the festival for the past 3 years, and it is so much fun! We have the best groups coming in to perform and play with us– it brings back memories of the good times we had on tours all over the world.

To get involved simply email me (Tara Christopher Eyre) at tara.eyre@gmail.com and let me know what you'd like to do best. We have a lot to do and we'd like to have a lot of fun doing it. Folk dancers still have the most fun, so bring some of that home and come join us at the Springville World Folk Festival!