



The Folk Dancer

Fall 2012

Christmas Around the World

- In the Round for the First Time! -

Mark your calendars:

- **November 30th and December 1st, 7:30 p.m.**
- **Saturday Matinee, December 1st at 2:00 p.m.**
- **Alumni Reception, December 1st at 3:45 p.m.**
(Cougar Room, hope to see you there!!!)

Tickets go on sale October 29th at 9:00 a.m. at the Marriott Center ticket office.

***Pre-sale for alumni Folk Dance students is Oct. 26th, 9:00 am.**

\$2.00 discount for 2 tickets ([discount link](#))

Ticket will range from \$10 - \$20.

This year we will feature new choreographies from **Scotland, Ireland, and the U.S.** with a new percussive piece. Featuring styles of Tap, American clogging, French Canadian step dancing, Irish hard shoe, Welsh clogging, and English clogging.

Special guests:

- **The Aerial Arts of Utah**
- **The Creative Dance Children with the Chinese Dragon**
- **Hispanic Children's Dance Group**
- **Shelley School of Irish Dance**

The concert will feature many of your favorite choreographies set for the round, and will be sure to set off your Christmas season to a great start.

Don't miss this annual tradition!



International Folk Dance Ensemble

Bigger and Better in Texas and the Deep South

Our spring tour was a marvelous whirlwind of an experience for all involved! The tour took us to New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas. We drove nearly 4,000 miles on “Le Bus” and, believe it or not, experienced many different climates, people, and cultures. It was a fantastic adventure and I would do it all over again if I could.



We interacted with more than 14,000 people during our tour through concerts, interactive youth activities, young adult family home evenings, firesides, High School workshops, dance studio workshops, elementary school performances and more. We took 30 dancers, 7 musicians, 4 technical student assistants, 6 leaders, Scott and Karen Horman as our truck drivers, and our bus driver—that’s a total of 50 people! I was so proud of all the students as they performed, interacted, and shared their talents every day.



Some of the countries included in our show were: Quebec, Ireland, U.S., India, Hungarian, and Roma dances from Transylvania, Hungary, Slovakia, Mexico, and Ukraine. Nearly half of our repertoire was new choreography this year.

Some of the highlights from our tour include:

While in New Orleans, LA, we performed for the Magnolia School. It was founded in 1935 and is a private, non-profit organization providing support to adults with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. During the show, many in the audience just had to join in the dancing and quickly became the center of attention. It was such a remarkable place. The experience was fabulous for all—so much so that it was difficult for several of the clients to say goodbye to the dancers. It was apparent that we all made new friends and didn’t want the moment to end.

In Alamogordo, New Mexico, Ron Nuttal (our dance trainer) and I, with the help of some of our dancers, conducted a workshop on “Dancer’s Health” for 30 young ballet students at the Academy of Ballet. After the discussion, Ukrainian, Irish, Hungarian, and Indian Bollywood dances were taught to the students. One of the ballet students commented, “I’ve always wanted to learn how to Irish dance... I really appreciated the variety I learned tonight.”



While in Dallas, TX, the group conducted one of many interactive firesides with more than one hundred young men and women from the McKinney Stake. We demonstrated a couple of dances for them, played music and games, sang and shared testimonies. Not surprisingly, when the time came for the audience to stand up and danced, several of the young men left the room rather



quickly. A short time later they returned because they heard all the fun that was happening and jumped right in. It was great to see how their opinions of the activity that one of the young men had described as "lame" before he left the room, ended up as "awesome" before the night was through.



We added a new Mexican segment to our show which began with the band playing and singing. The musical number was followed by the new dance suite from Vera Cruz and Jalisco. It was a huge success! These selections caused great excitement especially in El Paso and Laredo. I thought the roof was going to lift off the theater. Doug, our student sound engineer, said that the decibel meter measured just under the same volume of a gunshot. They loved our presentation, and was honored to have their culture represented by caucasian performers. Our dancers were touched by the overwhelming reception, and found new appreciation in honoring others traditions.



Our performance in Houston to a sold out theater, was very memorable. It was there that we met and renewed acquaintances with several former folk dancers. It was so great to see folk dance alumni and feel of your support.

For several of the dancers and musicians, our show in Texarkana was their final performance with BYU as a student. It was a bittersweet "farewell". I cried, of course, and they did



too. Our "family" was going to part, but lifelong memories and friends will always be in our hearts.

Jeanette Geslison

Report - SPAC 2012

What can I say about our SPAC 2012? It was another incredible experience. We toured throughout the Wasatch Front and even a little beyond. There were such a variety of venues and opportunities for our students, ranging from driving out to Duchesne and back and enjoying the slower pace of life, petting a real live Russian reindeer, and giving service to one school's year-end extravaganza! We danced on carpet, cement, the usual slippery tile, splintering wood, and even a wonderful Marley floor; in lunchrooms, arenas, auditoriums and playgrounds; for kids from pre-school age to a great grandpa who was 97!!



We named our presentation “Roots and Branches” and dug a little deeper with our narrations to encourage the children to think about where they came from and where their branches will go. We danced for people who could not hear, people who could not see, and those who didn't seem to care, but we performed and we did our very best knowing that at least one person in every audience was edified and up-lifted by our show – just as our Savior would have done.

Delynne Peay

eviDANCE

“eviDANCE,” formerly known as “World of Dance,” took place on September 12th -15th . The show took on a new direction this year. *Living Legends* was part of the show for the first time since becoming part of the Department of Dance. They added a wonderful richness to the show. This year the show was directed by Curt Holman. The name, “eviDANCE” is a play on evidences of dance in our own lives. The Journey began with a gypsy family who travels through the different discoveries of dance:

(1) Dance is whimsical, (2) Dance is romantic, (3) Dance is mysterious, and (4) Dance is life.

All of the dances in the show were woven together with beautiful transitions that flowed in such a cohesive manner. The student cast had a strong feel of unity behind the scenes and were so supportive of one another. It was an uplifting experience for all involved, and when the week came to an end, we were all sad for it to be over. We left edified and with a increased bond across the performing groups.



Church Public Affairs Events

On October 12th - 14th a group of eight “retired” folk dance students and two *Living Legends* will be travelling to Washington D.C. to perform at the Marriott Ranch for Ambassadors to the U.S. and their families. This has become an annual event and is a wonderful outreach to these important political heads. It is a way to make acquaintances which soften the perception towards the church by the light that our students share while there.

Another group of four current folk dancers, four musicians from Mountain Strings, and two *Living Legends* students will travel on the same week-end of October 12th - 14th to Napa, California for the same kind of event for ambassadors, consulate generals, and their families who reside on the west coast.

Distinguished Visitors

Our International Folk Dance Ensemble had the pleasure of meeting and interacting with the General Consul to the U.S. from Switzerland, Julius Anderegg, and his wife, Ursula Anderegg on Sept. 12th. He was accompanied by Erlend Peterson and Brother and Sister Hinckley. They visited our rehearsal, and we danced, talked, and took photos. Our group will be traveling to Switzerland in the summer of 2014.

Chinese Delegation Visiting BYU

Our BYU performing groups have gone to China 26 times, now China visits BYU! A delegation of 15 arts leaders from across China participated in the Fifth Chinese Arts Education Leadership Workshop, September 24th - October 5th. This was an extensive two-week seminar sponsored by BYU in which participants are engaged in the exchange of educational philosophies and practices in dance and music. The second week the dancers from the Beijing Dance Academy joined the conference. They presented a sold out concert in the DeJong concert hall on October 3rd with the BYU Philharmonic, including the U.S. premier of “When We Encounter”, Jiamin Huang’s choreographic work. Jiamin’s piece was premiered in China last year with the BDA dancers and the BYU Philharmonic, so now we are reversing the roles. While here, BDA presented workshops to the BYU students. As part of the sharing BYU’s performing groups presented a modified “eviDANCE” performance for them. It has been a delightful exchange as we have been learning from one another and building friendships.

Pourparler (Poor-par-lay)

“Pourparler” brought together those who work with school residencies, community gigs, traditional and IFD recreational groups, and those who are educators in schools and universities. The annual conference is sponsored by the National Folk Organization and was held in Salt Lake City, Utah this year on Sept. 27th - 30th. We were had 45 participants from all over the nation, a few from Canada, and also one from Beijing, China. It was a great time to share dance and music material with one another, and to meet friends who work with children in many different capacities. I highly recommend this workshop to anyone who is involved in teaching dance to children and/or any of the above mentioned activities.

Next year the conference will gather in Vermont in October of 2013. Look on “www.NFO-USA.org” for more information.

Upcoming Events

Visiting Scholar

We received funding from the College of Fine Arts and Communications to bring a visiting scholar to BYU to choreograph a Bulgarian dance suite for our International Folk Dance Ensemble and to present several lectures. Her name is Daniela Ivanova-Nyberg and is from Bulgaria. She completed her Ph.D. at the Institute of Art Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (2010), specializing in Ethnochoreology and Dance Anthropology. Her two masters degrees are from St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University. One degree is in Philosophy, with cultural anthropology minor. The other degree is in Bulgarian philology with a specialization in folklore. She also holds a Bachelor degree from Institute for Music and Choreography (Sofia). She has danced since the age of four. She is also a singer and a musician and has been performing and teaching in Bulgaria, and at major dance camps throughout the U.S., since 2005. Daniela currently resides in Washington (state) with her husband Gary Nyberg.



Daniela will choreograph a new dance piece for us this year. The choreography will come from northwest Bulgaria and will be specifically for the BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble. It will include two different dances. The first one will be a character dance based on a folk tale. The second dance will be a large group dance. The music is being composed right now, and will then be recorded in Bulgaria. We will also have the costumes for this new suite constructed and shipped from Bulgaria. Daniela will be coming to BYU October 30th - November 2nd.

Note: We value your financial support. If possible, please consider contributing to this wonderful Bulgarian project—which will be an outstanding addition to our repertoire. Checks should be made payable to “BYU Folk Dance” and mailed to: 290 Richards Building, BYU, Provo, Utah 84602.

Recreational Dance Night

If you are in the area, come and join our Recreational Dance nights:

- Wednesday, October 17th
- Wednesday, October 24th (in the Wilkinson Center Ballroom)
- Wednesday, November 7th

We are in session from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in rooms 270/278 Richards Building.

Dance Devotional

Our BYU dance devotional this year will be held in the Marriott Center on Tuesday Oct. 30th at 11:00 a.m.



Upcoming IFDE Performances

Kingsbury Hall, Salt Lake City, Utah November 15th, 2012

Concert sponsored by the Eastern Arts Organization. Our company will be performing our Classical Indian dance choreographed by Divia Narayanan, and also our new Hungarian Gypsy dance from Szaszcsavas Transylvania, choreographed by Richard Balazs. The show is at 7:30 p.m. and tickets can be purchased at the Kingsbury Hall ticket office.

Mid-semester tour:

Mesquite, Nevada	March 8, 2013
Las Vegas, Nevada	March 9, 2013
San Diego, California	March 11, 2013
San Bernadino, California	March 13, 2013
Huntington Beach, California	March 14, 2013
Oxnard, California	March 15, 2013
Glendora, California	March 16, 2013

Covey Center, Provo, Utah	April 4, 2013
Browning Center, Odgen, Utah	April 27, 2013

(For updates or changes please go to pam.byu.edu)



Summer 2013 Tour Dates to Remember

- May 25th Ephraim, Utah (for the Scandinavian Festival)
- June 1st St. Louis, Missouri
- June 2nd - 16th Nauvoo, Illinois



Scholarship Recipients

2012-2013 Folk Dance Scholarship Recipients

Mary Bee Jensen

Janelle Cunningham
Mike Romney

Excellence in Folk Arts

Brittney Leavitt
David Lewis

Viltis

Amber Shepherd
Brian Francis

Harman

Christopher Gallacher
Taylor Jones
Heidi Johnson
Mikayla Ellison

Pardoe-Anderson Performance

Drew Wilde

Performance Missionary

Danielle Murray
Sam Alva

Cherill Liptak

Emily Kleinkopf
Cody Phillips

We are so pleased to announce that the alumni gift account will be able to produce a new half tuition scholarship starting in the fall of 2013. Thanks to all of you for your generous donations to our program.

*(*We hope that you will continue to donate to our program in the future.)*

From Mary Bee Jensen

Moved from St. George to Provo in May. From the desert to the greens of the Riverside golf course (which is my back yard). I couldn't be happier. I am back HOME with my family and my folk dance family.

What excitement to be the greatest supporter and spectator for this exceptional program.

From 1956 to 2012, the dancers have the same characteristics. They are excellent dancers, happy and exude that beautiful spirit that defies any words I might apply. I couldn't be prouder.

My hip surgery was so successful I walk better now than before. Feel great at the amazing age of 95, and nothing has slowed me down.

I so enjoy seeing my folk dance family and look forward to being with many of you at *Christmas Around the World*.

You will always be special in my life! *Mary Bee*

