



The Folk Dancer

Fall 2013

Christmas Around the World 2013 - "See the Wonder"

Friday, December 6th, 7:30 P.M.

Saturday, December 7th, 2:00 P.M. & 7:30 P.M.

Christmas Around the World returns this year in "tennis court" style seating; meaning, both long sides of the Marriott Center will be sold. "See the Wonder" will take you to the town of "Joyeux Noel." "Jonathon" "lands" in the town during his off duty time as a worldwide travelling professional photographer. He has lost much hope for a brighter future and has hardened his perspective on life as the negative effects of war photography have stayed in his mind. He meets his fellow friend from the war, who encourages him to stay for the town's annual festival. Through the lens of his camera he slowly discovers a newly found "wonder" at this festival, which begins to lift his spirit and helps him to "see" a new perspective and hope.

This year we feature:

- ✓ Over 100 clogging champions from the Utah Valley community
- ✓ BYU's Russian choir
- ✓ Divya Narayanan and her Indian dancers
- ✓ And, of course, BYU's Folk Dance students and Mountain Strings

Don't miss this annual tradition! We LOVE to see you there and appreciate your ongoing support to our program.



For Alumni only: October 25th, 5:00 PM until October 28th 9:00 AM. Online only cast members and alumni.

- Tickets are \$15 (yellow seats) \$20 (blue seats), children under 11 receive \$5 off ticket purchase.
- **Promo code CAW2013 gives a \$2 discount on 2 tickets. Group pricing—on sale now. If alumni want 15 or more tickets, they could buy now at the ticket office and receive \$6 off per ticket purchased.**
- October 28th, Public sale. Both offices open at 9:00 AM.
- Don't forget the Alumni Reception following the Saturday CAW matinee performance at 4:00 P.M. in the Cougar room.

Homecoming by Delynne Peay

"A Season For Courage" was the theme for this year's Homecoming Spectacular and Activities. Inspired by the life and achievements of George Brimhall, five individuals were selected who have shown exceptional courage in overcoming challenges in their lives.

Nathan Pacheco, former BYU student served as the host and featured performer. Mr. Pacheco has toured with Yanni, and as a guest artist with the Tabernacle Choir. Living Legends presented their “Warrior’s Suite”, and a talented group of tap dancers performed to “I’ve Got Rhythm”!

International Folk Dance Ensemble 2013-14 Performance Dates

Sep. 18-21		eviDANCE	DeJong concert hall, BYU
Dec. 6	7:30 pm	Christmas Around the World	Marriott Center, BYU
Dec. 7	2:00 and 7:30 pm	Christmas Around the World	Marriott Center, BYU
Jan. 18	7:30 pm	“Journey”	Evanston, Wyoming
Feb. 1	2:00 and 7:30 pm	“Journey”	Conference Center, SLC

Mid-semester tour:

Feb. 28	7:30 pm	“Journey”; J.C. High School	Joseph City, AZ
Mar. 1	7:30 pm	“Journey”; Snowflake High School	Snowflake, AZ
Mar. 4	7:00 pm	“Journey”; St. Johns High School	St. Johns, AZ
Mar. 5	7:30 pm	“Journey”; Q.C. High School	Queen Creek, AZ
Mar. 6	7:30 pm	“Journey”; Palo Verde High School	Tucson, AZ
Mar. 7	7:30 pm	“Journey”; Chandler Center for the Arts	Phoenix, AZ
Mar. 8	7:30 pm	“Journey”; Mingus Union High School	Cottonwood, AZ
Mar. 18	7:30 pm	“Journey”	Lander, Wyoming
Mar. 22		Spring Festival of Nations	WSC Ballroom, BYU
Apr. 4	7:30 pm	“Journey”	Covey Center, Provo
Jul. 2-28		Summer Festival Tour	Switzerland, Belgium & France

For more detailed information about IFDE shows, please go to pam.byu.edu.

TRADITIONZ 2013 by Ed Austin



It was great fun directing this year’s Spring Performing Arts Company, Traditionz. It was a sincere pleasure to work with this group. They were well groomed, well-behaved, motivated to work hard, and extremely talented.

I want to especially thank my student assistant, Danielle Murray, contributed much to the training of this group.



This year we visited 52 elementary schools (approx. 36,400 children) from Ogden to Payson. A typical day would begin 6:45 am and end at 4:30 (with slight variations of the times).



This year we tried a lot of new ideas.



Only one Student Assistant was appointed. Extra rehearsals were almost eliminated; student expenses were cut way back, and the elementary outreach program formerly known as SPAC was referred to as TRADITIONZ.

The program itself also evolved this year. 4 learning outcomes were written before creating the show. This helped create a focus for our presentation of dances and also directed our writing of the script/program. The learning outcomes were:

Students introduced to a variety of cultures from throughout the world through music, regional dress, and dance.

Students learned a definition for the word “rhythm.”

Students engaged in rhythmic activities and watched how other cultures create rhythms with traditional instruments, through the articulation of their feet, and through the use of special shoes.

Students learned about some of the reasons people dance: 1)

socialization; 2) playing games; 3) telling stories



The 4 weeks of outreach were full and rich as we dedicated our time and our full attention to the children and the schools of Utah. It is hard to describe the look on the faces of the children as they watched their cafeteria transform into a magical spectacle of culture, music, and dance. And this year the students had wonderful opportunities to engage with the performers both during and after each outreach presentation.

Spring Performing Arts Company

Once again SPAC, our outreach group, will be delighting children in elementary schools in the spring. The dates for 2014 are April 30-May 23. If you would like to book a performance for your school or group, contact Vickie Austin at (801) 422-4283 or vickie_austin@byu.edu.

Stockton Folk Dance Camp by Jeanette Geslison

Each summer for the past 66 years, the University of the Pacific has hosted the Stockton Folk Dance camp. Many of the dances we teach in our recreational dance classes have been gleaned from folk dance camps such

as this. For the past several years Stockton has been kind enough to scholarship some of our selected students. Funds from our folk dance program help the students with housing costs. This past summer we were able to send four of our Performing Arts Company students, Thomas Call, Brian Jay Jacobsen, Mikayla Ellison, and Jaymie Lambson. Two faculty members, Delynne Peay and Amy Jex, also accompanied the students.

We had a wonderful time taking classes in Israeli, Greek, Brazilian, Argentine, Bulgarian, American Square, German, and even belly dance! The guest instructors were all fabulous! Favorites Jerry Helt (square), and Yves Moreau (Bulgarian, French Canadian), were honored as it was their last time teaching at Stockton. We had many fun “folk dance parties” each evening, including a Mardi Gras theme, a hat Kolo, talent show, and a culminating Israeli Independence day celebration. We learned about Jewish Sabbath customs, played some games, and ate a delicious traditional Israeli meal catered by the college, and our students even performed an Israeli choreography.

The opportunity to learn new dances enriches our program, as we are able to bring back new dances to teach each fall in our classes at BYU. We have already taught several dances to our team classes, and will be performing “Shar,” an Israeli dance, in the Homecoming parade in October. The camps also expose our students to recreational folk dance in a community setting a little different from our “rec nights” at BYU. We made many new friends from various parts of the country and world, and even saw a few familiar faces from our BYU alumni, such as Greg Lund, Linda Lundgren, and Kamrin McKnight.

“Indeed, appreciation for the world (and all in it), which God has given us, is but a prelude to adoration of the God who has so gloriously displayed His creativity for us.” —Neal A. Maxwell

New Choreographies and Guests by Jeanette Geslison

Percussive:

We started our new year by re-choreographing Footin’ & Fiddlin’ for eviDANCE. It was choreographed for the round by Colleen West for Christmas Around the World “Kaleidoscope” 2012. We made it work for proscenium this time.

Indian:

Divya Narayanan will be choreographing a new classical Indian women’s dance for the Indian dance medley for Christmas Around the World; “See the Wonder” 2013.

Bulgarian:

Daniela Ivanova came to BYU last November and choreographed a new Bulgarian dance suite that we will be premiering at *Christmas Around the World; “See the Wonder”* 2013. It includes a fun character dance called “The Gorgeous” and a 10 couple group dance named “Danubian Suite”; both from the northwestern area of Bulgaria. Daniela also helped facilitate getting new costumes for the suite made in Bulgaria, and then shipped here. This endeavor was partly made possible by the generosity of an Ira and Lou Fulton grant.

Chinese:

Jiamin Huang will be choreographing a new Chinese dance for us this year for both women and men. It will feature fans that will be specially made in China for this choreography.

Welsh:

Ed Austin has choreographed a new Suite of Dances from Wales, Cip Ar Gymru or A Glimpse of Wales. It provides a glimpse into the music and dance of the Welsh people. After almost 200 years of condemnation by nonconformist ministers, dancing almost vanished from Wales. Today it once again enjoys an enthusiastic following. This suite features Rali Twm Siôn, Mympw'r Etholiad, Hoffedd ap Hywel and Step y Glöcsen, material learned and collected by Ed during his travel to Wales over the past ten years.

American:

We will be taking several new American dance choreographies to the Festivals in Europe this summer. A fun new Charleston by Nathan Balser. A new small group clogging piece called "Dueling Rhythms" by Greg and Maria Tucker (premiered in Nauvoo this summer). A new western line and swing dance by Jeanette Geslison

Guest:

Peter Eeles, from the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, will be coming to work with our men on Oct. 6-8. He will specifically work with the men to train them for and get ready to perform Povzunets. The Ukrainian Shumka Dancers are located in Edmonton, Canada.

2013-2014 Folk Dance Scholarships by Colleen West

We would like to thank the Woodbury family for their generous gift in gratitude of their daughter Nina Booth and the years she spent with the Folk Dance program, working under Mary Bee Jensen. This gift made it possible for the Folk Dance Alumni account to be endowed and have produced scholarships for the first time this school year.

If you are interested in providing scholarships for the folk dance program and its students, please contact Jennifer Amott at (801) 422-9219 or visit give.byu.edu/folkdance.

Mary Bee Jensen	Emily Kleinkopf Brian Francis
Excellence in Folk Arts	Amber Shepherd Heidi Johnson
Viltis	Lauren Piperato Thomas Call
Pardoe-Anderson Performance	Kaitlyn Gourley
Performance Missionary	Craig Call Will Farnbach
Cherill Liptak	Mikayla Ellison Christopher Gallacher
Harman	Nathan Kuhlman Allison Jardine Jason Allen Nathan Pehrson
Folk Dance Alumni Endowment	Whitney Sorensen Jaymie Lambson

Thank You Alumni!

All of our students and faculty would like to extend a big thank you to those of you alumni who have donated to our alumni scholarship. No one knows better than you the good the folk dance program can do for a student here at BYU. Dancing on one of our teams can touch and change a life for the better like nothing else can. The program provides so many excellent opportunities and experiences for our students. Because of you, we are

able to help them even more in their discovery of folk dance and the difference it can make in their lives, and the difference they can make in others lives. Thank you!

Folk Dance Camp for Children by Jeanette Geslison

"Celebrate" was the theme for our camp this year; celebrating our 10th annual Folk Dance camp. We had a great group of camp participants this year, including 9 boys ranging in age from 9-18 years old.

Our teachers this year included: **Divya Narayanan** (Indian dance), **Kaui Tua** (Polynesian dance), **Delynn Peay** (Italian Tarantella) and **Danielle Murray** and **Will Farnbach** (Phillipines and Ukraine). **Kathleen Sheffield** returned to teach a much-requested one-session dance workshop for the 13-18 year olds. We had great Folk Dance student counselors to help the children, both inside and outside of the dance room. Our student counselors are an integral part of the success of the camp.

We made fun cultural crafts with the 9-13 year olds, including: Danish woven paper hearts and Hawaiian flower Lei's.

Each year we have new teachers who teach different cultural dance styles. The children are exposed to four to five different cultural dance forms while at camp. We dance a lot; make new friends; and learn about people's traditions through dance.

It is GREAT to see alumni folk dance children at our camp. Keep sending them! Have them bring their friends! Spread the word! For more information please visit: dancecamps.byu.edu, Jeanette Geslison and Becki Love

2013 Tour Report by Jeanette Geslison

St. Louis, Illinois

We were welcomed in St. Louis on May 31st by Larry and Heidi Shepherd, the parents of Amber Shepherd; one of our dancers. They were the representatives of the O'Fallon Stake, our presenters. We arrived just in time for a major storm to hit the area, including F2 tornadoes that touched down in surrounding areas. This was definitely a scary experience as we were welcomed to St. Louis, but luckily we all managed to stay safe.



We travelled with 28 dancers, 8 musicians and 4 technical student assistants. Tour leaders included: Jeanette Geslison (director), Mark Ohran (technical director), Colleen & Jeff West (tour manager), and Blain Empey (athletic trainer and former folk dancer), who joined us last minute in place of Ashlee Taylor who was re-assigned to go with the Ballroom Company.

Our show on June 1st was at the Belleville East High School Performing Arts Center. We had an overwhelming 800 audience members in a 730-seat auditorium. We had people standing in the back. The audience response was absolutely tremendous. They clapped and cheered through every piece. We had three standing ovations at the end before the final bows; our best audience this season! One of them commented that this show was only as much money as a movie ticket – and that it was worth 5 times that. Some commented that this performance was better than shows they had attended in the famous “Fox” theater in St. Louis. Many people came from the community, and also from the local dance community, as a result of a front-page newspaper article that featured Amber Shepherd. It was thrilling to see several alumni Folk Dancers there in attendance.

A memorable part of the weekend was also being able to attend the O’Fallon YSA branch. We fulfilled the branch presidency’s hope that one day the chapel would be full. It was to take Amber Shepherd and her parents to help fulfill this goal.

After the church meetings we “broke the fast”, and our group and the branch members ate together and created new friendships.

Our Fireside that evening was for the O’Fallon Stake and was attended by about 300 members and non-members. The local missionaries joined our group for the closing song. It was a positive and spiritually uplifting time together.



Our experience in St. Louis exceeded our expectations by far. Sister Stevens in the O’Fallon YSA branch said the next day about her experience at our show: “watching your performance last night made me so happy. It gave me a glimpse of what eternity is like”. Brother Greenfield, counselor in the O’Fallon YSA branch said: “The groups behavior left a wholesome impression on the community. Not only was the performance wholesome, but the students behavior was wholesome”.

We proceeded to Nauvoo where we performed every evening on their outdoor stage from June 3-15th. Our daily schedule also included outreach performances, a Fireside, visiting historic sites and most importantly; making new friends.

We were especially excited to see Diane and Richard Allen who were serving a mission in Nauvoo. Diane had been our costume designer for 10 years. We watched them perform in the “Rendezvous” show, and they also had a few chances to watch our evening performances. Diane was so gracious to help mend some of costumes while we were there.





The outreach performances included the Senior Center in Quincy, where they also brought in 200 day-care children. It also included: Hannibal, Missouri, Macomb, Illinois, the Lincoln Museum in Springfield, and Memphis, Missouri. Each opportunity brought new friends to our group. It was especially memorable when we performed our southern waltz suite in the rotunda of the Lincoln Museum. We blended right in with the wax figures of Pres. Lincoln and his family!

One of our new friends was a young man who drove a horse drawn carriage through the historic streets of Hannibal for tourists. He had stopped by the park to see our show, and afterwards he invited some of our students to ride in his carriage. We played music and sang the entire way through old town as people stopped to take photos of us. The students and Nathan, the carriage driver, became instant friends. Later that day he surprised us by travelling one and a half hours with his sister to attend our performance in Nauvoo that evening. The students visited with them again after the show, and it was obvious that the positive interaction had made a tremendous impact on him and his sister. Nathan returned two more times to Nauvoo to watch our show and visit with our students.



We were hosted in Nauvoo by Brother and Sister Gilleland, the mission president. Brother and Sister Condie, the temple president was also very kind to us. We were able to attend the beautiful Nauvoo temple twice while we were there.

A highlight for the students was a two-hour Martyrdom Trail tour with Brother Craig Dunn. He took the students on the path from Nauvoo to Carthage – stopping along the way on historical points of interested. He shared many insights about the events that occurred in the last few days of Joseph Smith's life.

This group of students was particularly amazing. The tour strengthened our faith, enriched our historical knowledge and lifted all of us to a higher plane. The city of Nauvoo is truly a sacred and special place. It was a privilege to perform in such surroundings of historical legacy, where the early saints had lived and sacrificed much to forward the work of the Lord. The kindness that was shown to us was so appreciated. This sacred experience and opportunity will be remembered and cherished by all involved.



BYU Cougar Clogging Classic 2013 by Vickie Austin

This year's clog camp was great fun and felt to be very successful. Numbers were down some from previous years but what we lacked in numbers was made up in enthusiasm. Ed and Vickie Austin, directors, were assisted by alumni Gregg Crockett and Jennifer Garrard. They did an excellent job in taking care of the campers, counselors, and activities as well as teaching some classes. Greg and Maria Tucker, also alumni, took part in teaching several sessions. Their enthusiasm for clogging is contagious. The staff was rounded out with Lindsey Greenwood and camp favorite, Scotty Bilz.

Next year's camp will be the 30th year of clog camp! Can you believe it? The dates will be June 19-21, 2014. We hope that many of you involved in clogging (either teaching or with children who clog) will come join us for the celebration. The experience is well worth the effort.

A Note from IFD Club President by Brian Francis

I am pleased to announce that folk dance is alive and well. Try-outs are over, our teams are full, and the club is filled with excitement and anticipation for what this year has in store.

We have already had a busy schedule as we recently finished up eviDance [formerly World of Dance] and now prepare for homecoming. This year our homecoming weekend will consist of the parade, Homecoming Spectacular, and of course the football game against Georgia Tech. To pay homage to the true blue BYU, the folk dance club will be once again performing in the parade. Our dancers have been working hard, learning two very fun dances: an Indian Bhangra and a French Canadian piece. We would love nothing more than for you to relive the glory days by coming out to watch us dance and participate in the weekend activities. Your support is very important to us, and we know that you will have an incredible time on campus.

This year our club's theme is "*Folk Dance: A Celebration of Life,*" and we kicked off the year by learning a beautiful hula [the women] and a terrifying Maori Haka [the men] at our opening social at Timpanogas Lodge. And the evening of food and entertainment was topped off with some inspirational stories from Sister Elaine Dalton, recent past Young Women's president of the Church. We are also learning more about the dances and cultures that we will be representing in our concert.

We also are hoping you will join us this year for our much-anticipated tradition, "*Christmas Around the World,*" December 6th and 7th. If you weren't able to attend last year's unique performance "in the round," you won't want to miss out on this year's surprise.

Alumni Spotlight by Vickie Austin

Joseph Kroupa danced with the BYU Folk Dancers on various teams between 1994-1999. He has continued to stay connected with fellow folk dancers as well as faculty here at BYU. He will readily admit he is addicted to folk dance.

Joseph moved to the D.C. area in 2005 where he pursued and obtained a law degree. He says he has discovered a rich atmosphere of folk dancing and music spanning multiple ethnic groups and traditions. "In fact, there is so much variety and opportunity to dance that one could literally dance every single day and night here." He tries to limit himself to dancing 2-4 times a week.



Since BYU, Joseph has participated in ethnic celebrations, festivals, camps (Stockton and Csipke, two of the largest), and in weekly recreational groups, via YouTube and anywhere a few dancers happen to be gathered—in restaurants, parks and embassies, to name a few.

Joseph's current focus lies in three areas:

1. A small Hungarian group, Tisza, which performs village style dance—mainly improvised dancing.
2. Cuban dancing called rueda de casino. He jokingly calls it Latin square dancing—even though it is done in a circle—as a leader calls out the figures and it has constant partner changes.
3. This fall he is also dancing and singing in what he calls an East Coast version of *Christmas Around the World*, called *Christmas Revels*. It will be portraying the Thracian culture from Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey through music, dance and even some mummery.

Joseph is highly regarded and well liked in the folk dance community. He is a wonderful teacher. Thank you Joseph for representing BYU so well in all you do. For more information regarding the folk dance activities mentioned above, please access the following:

- ✓ <http://www.tiszaensemble.org> – the Hungarian group Joseph is in.
- ✓ <http://www.youtube.com/xopowoparvo> – Joseph's YouTube folk dance channel (including Cuban rueda de casino videos).
- ✓ <http://revelsdc.org/events.html> – *Christmas Revels*.

Hungarian State Ensemble performance “Gypsy Romance”

Some of the world dance faculty had an opportunity to travel to UNLV to see the Hungarian State Ensemble's performance of “Gypsy Romance”. The program included many of the Hungarian regions of dance we know and love including: Szatmar, Somogy, Kalocsa, Mehkerek, Rabakoz, and Mezősegi to name a few. We were also delighted to an all-women's piece titled “Gossip” that had the women sitting in chairs and “chirping” to each other in rhythm with clapping and slaps on the knees to create a jovial group women in the town's square passing along the latest gossip of the villagers. The group's talented musicians had a few opportunities to perform by themselves. They played a variety of gypsy music from Bonchida, Transylvania, and a medley of some of Franz Liszt's famous Hungarian Rhapsodies.