



# The Folk Dancer

Fall 2015

## Calendared Events and *Christmas Around the World* Tickets



This year's presentation of Christmas Around the World is entitled The Gift. Mark your calendars now for December 4 & 5. Join us for this annual tradition and enjoy this gift of fine art and student talent. Our embedded theme this year revolves around the three wise men who sought out the Christ child in order to share their personal gifts. A question we might all ask ourselves is, "Are we willing to share our gifts as the wise men of old?" Our talented folk dancers have been working very hard this season as they prepare to present a personal gift to each of you in this spectacular exhibition of world dance.



The company will be premiering some exciting new repertoire in the concert. They have had the privilege of working with a number of talented choreographers.



Many of you will remember Jiamin Huang who is formerly of the Beijing Dance Academy. She has created an exciting new work which concentrates on the intricate movement of exquisite fans.

Miguel Pena, currently a dancer with Espectaculo Jarocho, and a soloist with the University of Texas – Pan American Ballet Folklórico, has created an exciting new contemporary piece from Veracruz.

Zeljko Jergan returned to BYU this semester to create a dynamic choreography from Posavina, Backa, and Banat. Those of you who worked with him will remember his creative and artistic approach to Croatian Dance and will be thrilled with this new work.





A delightful surprise will be a new contemporary Palestinian Debka choreographed by Hussam Qutob.

Other fun additions to the program include an exciting new Charleston, Mexican Polka, and the restaging of Papa Loko, a vibrant choreography of Haitian-Creole origin.



### Alumni Reception -

between the Saturday matinee and evening shows, we will once again **meet at the Hinckley Center (about 4pm)** for a wonderful gathering of “us!” It’s just one round of “Salty Dog Rag” to get you there! We have heard that many of you really enjoyed getting together last year, and we would love to see you again this season. Also, there will be an exciting new 2016 announcement for our Folk Dance Alumni! Curious?



## Tickets: “The Gift”

801-422-BYU1 or [byutickets@byu.edu](mailto:byutickets@byu.edu)

Promo Code (CAW2015)

**\*Group pricing—on sale now.**

10 or more tickets. (\$6 discount per ticket)

**Alumni sale Friday, Oct. 30**

(\$7 off first 2 tickets only)

**9:00 am**

**General Public Monday Nov. 2**

**9:00 am**

Below Concourse \$ 20	BYU students and faculty, and children \$ 15	Group \$ 14	Promo (for 2 tickets) \$ 13
Above Concourse \$ 15	BYU students and faculty, and children \$ 10	Group \$ 9	Promo (for 2 tickets) \$ 8

## Tour to Croatia and Spain



The American Folk Dance Ensemble, including Mountain Strings, embarked on a four week tour beginning July 2.

They first attended the “International Folklore Festival” in Karlovac, Croatia. One of the many highlights of this festival was the students worked with Drazen Makarun, the director of the Matija Gubec Croatian Dance Ensemble. The BYU students (dressed in borrowed Croatian traditional dress) performed what they had learned as the final number for the closing ceremonies at the festival. The dancers received a standing ovation that seemed to last forever.



The second folk festival was held in Burgos, Spain, with 3-4,000 people attending the performance each night. It was also televised to an audience of approximately three million people. This extremely professional festival treated our company like royalty. One highlight of the festival was when the BYU and Cuban dancers and musicians performed together onstage for the finale number. Having both groups together at the festival shortly after the reestablishment of diplomatic relations was front page news. Festival director, Regina

Penacova, indicated that Burgos was honored to have this historical event take place in Europe – on their stage and in their city. The two folk dance ensembles received a boisterous standing ovation from the audience. The next day they were pictured on the front page of the newspaper and broadcast on the local news.

The third festival, Extremadura International Folk Festival, in Badajoz, Spain was also invigorating and educational as the students interacted with other performers from all over the world and had opportunities to visit local historical sites.

Tender memories of summer tour were engraved in the hearts of the students and leadership as they met and shared testimonies with Church members in both Croatia and Spain. As one missionary wrote home about the BYU students, "They were able to bear testimony through the way they look and dress, through the way they act, through the way they treat others, and by the light of Christ they shared through both the glow of their eyes and also the spirit around them."

Attending folk dance festivals is what the BYU folk dancers do best in having a large impact for good in representing the church, the university and the United States.

Tour leadership this year included: Tour Managers, Troy Streeter and Shane Wright; Artistic Director, Colleen West; Technical Director, Mark Ohran; and Athletic Trainer, Brenda Critchfield.



## Traditionz



Traditionz 2015 hit the road once again this past spring to present our show, "Seasons of Celebration" at 40 schools from Ogden to Payson, Utah. Our elementary school outreach presented dances from Haiti, China, Russia, Romania, India, Ukraine, Ireland, Mexico, the USA, and a folk tale from Japan centered on dances which celebrate our four seasons.

It is such a thrill to arrive at schools where the BYU Folk Dancers are the traditional favorite end-of-year program and our dancers are heralded like rock stars! Our current students become instantly aware of the legacy of excellence that has been left by earlier generations. One piece of "fan mail" from a 4th grader we received sums it up:





*Dear BYU Folk Dancers,  
You are very talented and funny. I like your dances. You are excellent dancers + people. I can't wait to see you next year. You're the best people for an assembly.  
Sincerely, William W.*

To schedule a performance for the 2016 season, contact Vickie Austin at [traditionz@byu.edu](mailto:traditionz@byu.edu) or call (801) 422-4283. For information about our performances visit [traditionz.byu.edu](http://traditionz.byu.edu).

## Don't Forget...

### World Dance Freshman/Transfer Student Scholarship Application Deadline – November 7, 2015

Applicants must complete an audition by online video submission only that demonstrates their dance performance ability. Applicants will need to record themselves following the requirements listed below and then submit a [video audition application](#) online.

**Social Media** – make sure you [join us on Facebook](#) to see all the happenings of the Folk Dancers, we'd love to stay connected and share memories.

**BYU Winterfest 2016** – [Conference Center Theater](#), Salt Lake City, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.  
Experience the wonder and splendor of music and dance as internationally acclaimed Brigham Young University performing groups take the stage in Salt Lake City with BYU Winterfest 2016.



# Scholarships Recipients 2015-2016

## Mary Bee Jensen

Victoria Leavitt Ringer  
Nathan Pehrson

## Excellence in Folk Arts

Rebecca Kiser  
Zach Diamond

## Viltis

Julianna Sheffield Bateman  
Wesley Valdez

## Pardoe-Anderson Performance

Cameron King  
Amanda Welsh

## Performance Missionary

Ariel Peterson  
Katie Haddock

## Cherill Liptak

Whitney DeMille  
Taylor Haycock

## Harman

Tanner Long  
Sean Nicholes

## Folk Dance Alumni Endowment

Abram Allred  
Sirie McCoy



Thank you so much for your generosity in contributing to the World Dance Are Scholarship funds. This is greatly appreciated by each of the recipients as they strive for excellence in academics, spiritually and in the ensemble. These donations help them more than you will know. For more information on how to give to any of the scholarship funds contact Jennifer Amott at 801-422-9219 or visit [give.byu.edu/folkdance](http://give.byu.edu/folkdance).

### Newsletter Contributors:

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