

BYU Department of Dance

AND THE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE PRESENT

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD
2023



CELEBRATION

WITH FEATURED GUESTS:

- UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY BALLET FOLKLÓRICO
- BYU GAMELAN ENSEMBLE • BYU LIVING LEGENDS

DECEMBER 1-2 • BYU MARRIOTT CENTER

BYUarts

CELEBRATION

Christmas Around the World is a unique tradition here at BYU. Officially opening in 1960, *Christmas Around the World* is the longest-running Christmas production on campus. It was originated by Mary Bee Jensen, founder of the BYU folk dance program. It is estimated that this concert has given performance opportunities to more than 13,000 students since its inception. It is indeed a wonderful celebration as we ring in the Christmas season to honor, study, and present cultural dance and music traditions from around the world.

This year is a special celebration as we share the stage with invited guest performers Ballet Folklórico from University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV), BYU Living Legends Latin dancers, and the BYU Gamelan Ensemble with Balinese dance students. We have had a special opportunity to collaborate with UTRGV Ballet Folklórico artistic director Miguel Peña in creating a new cross-cultural percussive dance piece. This piece is created to showcase shared percussive rhythms of Mexican zapateado step work and American clogging steps. Miguel came to BYU in October of this year to choreograph this piece in collaboration with Greg and María Tucker. We are so excited to share the stage with the UTRGV dancers in this and other Mexican collaborative dance selections with BYU Living Legends.

We are likewise fortunate to have I Nyoman Windha and I Gusti Agung Ayu Warsiki as resident guest artists here at BYU from Bali, Indonesia, facilitated by professor of music Jeremy Grimshaw. Currently, they are teaching Balinese dance and music courses on campus. These courses provide students with the unique opportunity to embody and learn about the Balinese dance and music traditions and techniques. It is an honor to share the stage with our guest artists and their students in presenting such a diverse cultural tradition.

Our BYU folk dance students continue the legacy of presenting cultural dance traditions from around the world. This educational experience enriches and expands their perception and understanding of the world. It increases their appreciation of people of different cultures as they learn about others' traditions from expert guest teachers. Embodying other cultural dance traditions gives way for deeper understanding and appreciation, and it may also give students the opportunity to learn more about their own ancestral roots.

We are excited to celebrate with you this year and hope that this may be the beginning of a wonderful Christmas season for each of you.



Jeanette Geslison, Artistic Director

PROGRAM

OPENER: CELEBRATION! Full Cast
Welcome!

Choreography: Jeanette Geslison **Music:** "The Holly and the Ivy" (traditional), "Far, Far Away in Judea's Plains" (John Menzies Macfarlane), and "Joy to the World" (George Frideric Handel and Isaac Watts), performed by Mountain Strings **Musical Arrangement:** Mark Geslison and Mountain Strings students

 **MEXICO: AZTEC** BYU Living Legends

The Kuitlaxocotl Tlauili dance is a representation of the people of Aztlan, named the Aztecs. Their ritual sounds were considered the voice of the gods. Through their beautiful music and corporal movements, we experience the story of "the fruit of light," reminding us to seek the light in times of darkness through Mother Earth and spiritual connection.

Choreography: Mario Gamez Carillo **Music:** Kuitlaxocotl Tlauili (Fruit of Light), recorded by Los Hermanos de los Andes

 **MEXIKATL** University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) Ballet Folklórico


In 1519, a large part of Mesoamerica was under the control of the Aztec culture. When the Spaniards arrived that year in Central Mexico, they forged a powerful empire in less than a century. It extended from the northern border of the area to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Dances were performed mainly in offering to their gods to the accompaniment of percussion and wind instruments.

Choreography: Miguel Peña **Music:** Traditional, by Jorge Reyes

 **POLAND: OBEREK** International Folk Dance Ensemble

Oberek and Kujawiak are two of Poland's five national dances. Oberek is a vibrant and exciting couple dance, which is balanced here with the romantic Kujawiak couple dance.

Choreography: Jeanette Geslison **Music:** "Poznański Oberek" and "Wesele w Jerioranach," and "Wczesne popołudnie" (traditional), performed by Mountain Strings

 **POLAND: POLONEZ** 10:00 Ensemble

This majestic Polish national dance is a "walking" dance in $\frac{3}{4}$ time signature. It is often seen as the opening dance at balls, events, or national days.

Choreography: Amy Jex **Music:** "Od Krakowa do Makowa" (traditional), performed by Mountain Strings

PROGRAM



POLAND: KRAKOWIAK 9:00 Ensemble

This dance is recognized as one of Poland's five beloved national dances. It originates from a region surrounding Kraków and was transformed by gentry from a village dance into a more finished, elegant style.

Choreography: Amy Jex **Music:** Traditional, recorded by F. Dzierzanowski



SERBIA: HAJ'D POVEDI VESELO Tier 2 Ensemble

The central region of Šumadija is considered to be the heartland of Serbia. Known for its rolling hills, dense forests, and fruit orchards, its pastoral landscapes have heavily influenced the cultural lifestyle.

Choreography: Michael Malich **Restaging:** Amy Jex **Music:** Traditional, recorded by Dragoljub Sarkovic, Zoran Karanikolic



HUNGARY: DULANDLÉ International Folk Dance Ensemble

In Kalotaszeg, Transylvania, a dulandlé was placed on the head of a new wife until the birth of the first child. This is a fine white veil with embroidery around the edges. This choreographic work explores the emotional state of a young girl preparing for marriage, accompanied by the beautiful and distinct dances of the Kalotaszeg region. The spectacular men's dance—the competitive Legényes, often considered in Hungary as the "King of Dances"—is accompanied by two types of couples' dances: the csárdás, which is perhaps the quintessential Hungarian couple dance, and quick csárdás (szapora), which is manifest in its speed and virtuosity.

Choreography: Zsolt Juhász **Music:** Traditional, recorded by Göncöl band **Music Arrangement:** Kelemen László



HUNGARY: KALOCSAI TÁNCOK 2:00 Ensemble

Dances from Kalocsa come from the Somogyi region in southwestern Hungary with its unique cultural dance style including jumping dances. The traditional Kalocsai mars—or processional dance—is here combined with an üveges women's bottle dance, and the exciting friss csárdás—or fast couple dance.

Choreography: Jeanette Geslison **Music:** Traditional



USA & MEXICO: APPALACHICAN International Folk Dance Ensemble
with UTRGV Ballet Folklórico

American clogging percussions meet Mexican Veracruz footwork rhythms in this cultural dance exchange.

Concept: Jeanette Geslison **Choreography:** Miquel Peña, Greg Tucker, and Maria Tucker **Music:** "Dancin' in the Country" (T. Hubbard, R. Copperman, J. Nite, and K. Urban), recorded by Tyler Hubbard, and "El Zapateado" (traditional), recorded by Ivan Velasco



PROGRAM



USA: AMERICAN MEDLEY 10:00 Ensemble with 9:00 Ensemble

What starts off as a good ole American hoedown ends in a square dance reminiscent of one of our favorites, the Mary Bee. Get ready to clap your hands and stomp your feet along with our beginning ensembles in this American Medley!

Choreography and Restaging: Emilee Wright **Music:** "New Camptown Races" (Frank Wakefield), and "Good King Wenceslas" and "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" (traditional English), performed by Mountain Strings



INDIA: GANESHA International Folk Dance Ensemble with 2:00 Ensemble

This choreography is a folk-fusion piece based on Lord Ganesha (the lord of good luck, who is half-elephant, half-human), who is celebrated in the state of Maharashtra. This piece depicts how he is worshipped in the home and celebrated in the streets for 10 days every year during the festival of Ganesh Chaturthi.

Choreography: Vaishali Sagar **Music:** Traditional, performed by Asfak Khawra (dhol) and Samir Langa (singer), recorded by Nitin Wadekar

— INTERMISSION —

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE 2024 PERFORMANCES

Utah Performances:

Feb. 7 Dance Performance Theatre, Provo, UT, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 8 Dance Performance Theatre, Provo, UT, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 9 Dance Performance Theatre, Provo, UT, 7:30 p.m.
Mar. 16 Winterfest, Salt Lake City, UT, 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Visit byuarts.com/dance for more information or to purchase tickets.

Mid-Semester Tour—Southern California:

Feb. 13 Irvine, CA
Feb. 14 Escondido, CA
Feb. 15 San Diego, CA
Feb. 16 Ontario, CA
Feb. 17 Thousand Oaks, CA

Summer Tours:

April 27–May 6 Vallarta Azteca Festival in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
May 7–22 ... Southern States Tour: Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee & Alabama
Visit <https://pam.byu.edu/events/?P=international-folk-dance-ensemble> for tickets and info.

PROGRAM

INDONESIA: TARI PENDET BYU Gamelan Ensemble

Tari Pendet was composed and choreographed by legendary Balinese performing artist I Wayan Rindi, and features graceful and subtle synchronicities between the musician's cues (angsel) and the dancer's movements, which are choreographed in such detail that even the smallest movements of the fingertips and eyelids are carefully executed. The care with which these musical and visual details are crafted speaks to the profoundly devotional nature of Balinese arts.

Choreography: I Wayan Rindi **Visiting Instructors:** I Nyoman Windha and I Gusti Agung Ayu Warsiki

Music: I Wayan Rindi, performed by Gamelan Bintang Wahyu (Jeremy Grimshaw, founding director)

IRELAND: CEILIDH International Folk Dance Ensemble & Tier 2 Ensemble

A ceilidh refers to a traditional Scottish and Irish social gathering. This ceilidh features both cultures with vibrant solo dancing and the traditional Trip to the Cottage figure dance. The Scottish Highland dance begins this medley. Traditionally danced by men, it has militaristic origins. The Scottish soldiers were known to dance before a decisive battle or in triumph after a military victory over their swords. The discipline required to perform the Highland dances allowed men to demonstrate their strength, stamina, and agility. Legend has it, if they touched the sword they were dancing over, bad luck would come to them the next day in battle. The Irish solo dances include both soft shoe and hard shoe styles to demonstrate rhythmic intricacies, strength, stamina, and agility.

Concept: Jeanette Geslison **Choreography:** Jeanette Geslison with Claire Farnsworth, Emmelene Hovey, and McKenzie Keene (Scottish segment), and Irish student soloists (Irish dance segments) **Scottish Dance**

Soloists: Monty Domike, Bethany Hovey, Emmelene Hovey, Kayla Wong, and Leila Wong **Irish Dance**

Soloists: Claire Farnsworth, Sarah Ann Huber, Christianna Sorensen, and Marina Wentz **Music:** "Ghillie Callum," "Trip to the Cottage," "Lad O'biernes," and "The Otter's Holt" (traditional), performed by Mountain Strings

Bagpiper: Mike Swan

CANADA: VOLCANIC JIG Mountain Strings

This Cape Breton fiddle piece conveys its traditional music style with vibrancy and excitement.

Music: "Volcanic Jig" (Natalie MacMaster), performed by Mountain Strings

MEXICO: SONES SINALOENSES UTRGV Ballet Folklorico

In the northern region of the state, where the province of Sinaloa used to be, a large number of sones were performed at social gatherings, some of an imitative nature and others of courtship. These social gatherings or "parties" were called pascoleadas even when it was not the expression itself but a meeting merely of a social nature, such as a baptism or a wedding, just to mention a few.

Choreography: Yahir Padilla **Music:** Traditional



PROGRAM



PHILIPPINES: MABUHAY! International Folk Dance Ensemble & Tier 2 Ensemble

"Mabuhay," a Filipino greeting, is usually expressed as "mabuhay!" meaning "to live!" or "live!" or "long live." This diverse Filipino dance medley begins with a Spanish-influenced dance, Jota Quirino, which is brought to life by the clicking of castanets. Next is Pandango Sa Ilaw, where dancers balance candles on their hands and head representing fireflies in the night. This is followed by the vibrant and fun Sayaw Sa Bangko, where dancers perform exciting movement while trying to balance on benches. The medley then concludes with the national dance of the Philippines, Tinikling, where dancers imitate the movement of the Tikling bird as they dance between bamboo sticks. Here is to life—Mabuhay!

Concept: Jeanette Geslison **Choreography:** Tana Bybee **Music:** "Jota Quirino" (traditional), recorded by ROFG Rondalla Ensemble; "Pandango Sa Ilaw" and "Sayaw Sa Bangko" (traditional), recorded by RCLA; "Tinikling" (traditional)



MEXICO: FIESTA EN JALISCO UTRGV Ballet Folklórico, International Folk Dance Ensemble, and Living Legends

Jalisco is a magnificent state, rich in traditions. It is the land of the mariachi; the land of beautiful women, modest but exciting; the land of the jarabe, explosive and very mestizo; the land of handsome men, tanned by the sun. Synonymous with happiness, rhythm, and color, the son Jalisciense originated with the fusion of the Spanish and native Indian cultures.

Choreography: Miguel Peña **Music:** Traditional



UKRAINE: HUSTKA Tier 2 Ensemble

"Hustka," meaning "shawl," showcases two energetic dances from central Ukraine. A playful couple dance is followed by a spirited women's dance featuring the beautiful floral hustkas in a kaleidoscope of shape and color.

Choreography: Amy Jex, Ashley Jex, McCall Hafen after Ensemble Poltava and the Song and Dance Ensemble Zaporozhtsi **Music:** "Poltavian Polka" (P. Popichuk) and "Central Ukraine Humorous" (Colors of Dance)



UKRAINE: HOPAK International Folk Dance Ensemble

Recognized as the national dance of Ukraine, Hopak was performed exclusively by men in the 15th and 16th centuries during the famous Cossack period. By the 19th century, women had become a regular part of the dance, adding to the vivacious spirit of this Ukrainian hallmark.

Choreography: Colleen West, Jeanette Geslison, with Edwin G. Austin, Jr. **Music:** Traditional, performed by the Intermountain Symphony Orchestra **Musical Arrangement:** Tyler Castleton, Daniel Lee

FINALE Full Cast

Staging: Amy Jex **Music:** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (Ludwig van Beethoven and Henry van Dyke) and "Feliz Navidad" (José Feliciano), performed by Mountain Strings **Musical Arrangement:** Mark Geslison

BYU INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE



Tori Allen
Phoenix, AZ
EXERCISE SCIENCE



McKenzie Bellon*
Highland, UT
NEUROSCIENCE



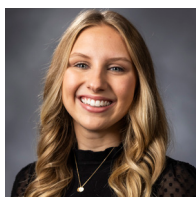
Brielle Bowden
Mesa, AZ
ACCOUNTING



Tana Bybee
Provo, UT
DANCE BA



Abby Collins*
Provo, UT
SOCIAL SCIENCE TEACHING



Amy Hawkes
LaGrange, GA
COMMUNICATION
DISORDERS



Jillian Iverson
South Jordan, UT
DANCE BA



Jade Madison
Mobile, AL
DANCE BFA



**Makeila Valeti
Morgan**
Sacramento, CA
DANCE BA



Clara Smilanick*
Roseville, CA
MATH EDUCATION



Tori Stone*
Provo, UT
EDITING & PUBLISHING



Bailey Tucker*
Orem, UT
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



Carly Wanlass*
Lehi, UT
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION



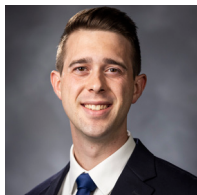
Janelle Wilson
Salt Lake City, UT
DANCE BA

**Cultural Dance minors*

BYU INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE



Tanner Birtcher
Wheaton, IL
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY



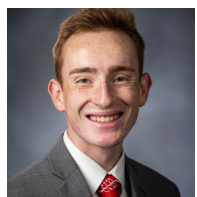
David Chandler
Mesa, AZ
LINGUISTICS



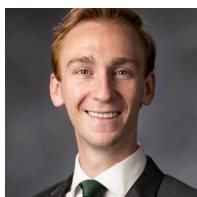
Dawson Collins
Rexburg, ID
MATHEMATICS



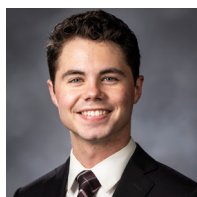
Remington Comp*
Cedar City, UT
HISTORY



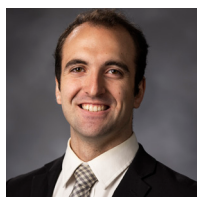
Nathan Cox*
American Fork, UT
ACTUARIAL SCIENCE



Braden Duke*
Bountiful, UT
CYBERSECURITY



Colton Fields
Lakeville, MN
MICROBIOLOGY



Crozier Fitzgerald
Rexburg, ID
EXERCISE SCIENCE



Levi Hancock
Fairborn, OH
PHYSICS



Dallin Lyon
Firestone, CO
MUSIC DANCE THEATRE BFA



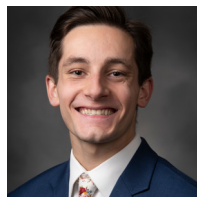
Matthew Peterson
Alpine, UT
APPLIED AND COMPUTATIONAL MATHEMATICS



Isaac Schaat
Rexburg, ID
FINANCE



Efrain Villalobos*
Mapleton, UT
COMMUNICATIONS



Anthony Xanthos
Beaverton, OR
EXERCISE SCIENCE

*Cultural Dance minors

ADDITIONAL DANCE ENSEMBLES

9:00 ENSEMBLE

William Allen
 Chase Anderson
 Trevor Baldauf
 Emily Christensen
 Ashlyn Cluff
 Devin Ey
 Bethany Hovey
 Emmelene Hovey
 Sarah Ann Huber
 Liana Jankovich
 Evan Johnson
 Neil Loosli
 Simona Love
 Ella Madsen
 Dallin Matheson
 Julie Mortensen
 Daniel Olson
 Tyran Preece
 Ben Price
 Arthur Prusso
 Emma Lynn Romans
 Nicholas Smith
 Winters Stephens
 Natalie Vance
 Emily Winegar
 Halle Young

Director:

Amy Jex

TAs:

*Ellie Geslison
 Colton Fields*

10:00 ENSEMBLE

Amberlee Abbott
 Hallie Allred
 Madeline Brown
 Bo Brundige
 Tegwen Bryan
 Elise Davis
 Samantha Farnsworth
 Colin Fernandez
 Helaman Flores
 Franco Giuffra
 Gonzalez
 Katie Howe
 Sam Kalama
 Athena Kryzmowski
 Ivin McDonald
 Maria McRae
 Michael Memmott
 Abigail Munson
 AJ Nielsen
 Lydia Pullan
 Lizzie Rawlings
 Connor Smith
 Emma Van Leeuwen
 Elisa Weibell
 Macy Winterton
 Annelise Wooley
 David Zuniga

Director:

Emilee Wright

TAs:

Efrain Villalobos

2:00 ENSEMBLE

Aaron Adams
 Chase Anderson
 Max Beesley
 Emily Brown
 Madison Chapman
 Samuel Devenport
 Kirstyn Dewsnap
 Kinley Hartman
 Isaac Hendrickson
 Shaun Hicken
 Joseph Jones
 Natalie Lund
 Arthur Mantoan
 Tanner Meeks
 Abigail Merrill
 Carter Morgan
 Eliza Morris
 Sydney Muir
 Brigham Parker
 Carson Petrie
 Lauren Preece
 Grace Richards
 Betsy Richardson
 Jonah Riggs
 Davin Sharp
 Christianna Sorenson
 Jessica Spencer
 McKenna Tester
 Eric Upton-Rowley
 Hannah Vaughan
 Kayla Wong

Director:

Jeanette Geslison

TAs:

*Tana Bybee
 Nate Cox*

TIER 2 ENSEMBLE

Emma Anderson
 Bryce Barker
 Alex Beard
 Luke Beckstrand
 James Blood
 Tyson Boxer
 Emily Covington
 Spencer Day
 Christian Devey
 Monterey Domike
 Elizabeth Erickson
 Ava Folkman
 Ellie Geslison
 Emily Hanson
 Adam Jewell
 Joshua Jones
 Abigail Kammerman
 Emma Knight
 Camila Losik
 Amy Nattress
 Nicholas Peterson
 Thomas Rex
 Tyson Richards
 Dallin Salway
 Savannah Savage
 Brooklynn Slagle
 Sierra Stahly
 Olivia Sturgeon
 Maya Taylor
 William Whitlock

Director: *Amy Jex*

Rehearsal Assistant:

Spencer Waddell

MOUNTAIN STRINGS



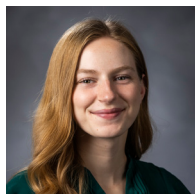
Tyler Anderson
Roseburg, OR
UNDECLARED



Madeline Charles
Lehi, UT
ADVERTISING



Ellie Geslison*
Provo, UT
SOCIOLOGY



Christina Iverson
Boston, MA
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY



Austin Johnson
Delaware, OH
SPANISH TRANSLATION
AND LOCALIZATION



Arthur Prusso
Holladay, UT
MUSIC BA



Emily Wall
Gainsville, VA
BIOINFOMATICS

GUEST MUSICIANS:

Camryn Porter, Flute
Mike Swan,
Scottish bagpipes

**Cultural Dance minors*

GUEST DANCE ENSEMBLES

UTRGV FOLKLÓRICO

Leila Banda
Paola Cantu
Valerie De Leon
Maria Garcia
Angela Marentes
Delia Ortegon
Alejandra Ramos
Elizabeth Stamatio

Ezra Alcocer
Omar Lopez
Juanjose Gonzalez
Emmanuel Peralez
Juan Salinas
Ulises Serna
Ramiro Silva
Xavier Zamora

BYU LIVING LEGENDS

Ivette Galvez
Paloma Castillo
Isabel Benjamin
Celeste Escarzaga
Gabriella Ruiz
Kelina Anderson
Melissa Ogden
Auli'i Camacho

Benjamin Lopez
Piero Gongora
Issac Rascon
Joshua Johnson
Fernando Ramos
Antonio Ordaz
Tallin Kaitoku

GUEST ARTISTS



UTRGV BALLE FOLKLÓRICO

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Artistic Director: Miguel Peña

The Ballet Folklórico is a 32-member organization comprising students who are pursuing degrees in a variety of disciplines. The ballet presents student and public concerts annually and travels to present programs for local, state, national, and international private and public affairs. The ballet has jointly produced ballets, concerts, zarzuelas, and musicals with the Valley Symphony Orchestra, the UTRGV Theatre, and the UTRGV Music Department. In 1996, the ballet traveled to Ottawa, Canada, to perform in their Dieciséis de Septiembre Festival. In 1999, the State of Texas House of Representatives honored the Ballet Folklórico with House Resolution N. 510. The Ballet Folklórico has been showcased at state and national dance conferences such as the Asociación Nacional de Grupos Folklóricos; the American College Dance Festival; the North Texas Folkloric Festival; the Texas Association of Health, Physical Education, and Dance; and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, and Dance. In 2006, the ballet was one of 100 outstanding Texas artists chosen for inclusion on the Texas Commission on the Arts Touring Roster Program. The Ballet Folklórico has also traveled on a European tour visiting countries such as France and Italy.

The UTRGV Ballet Folklórico has received national recognition through the American College Dance Association (ACDA). Their works have been showcased and selected to perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, in three consecutive national years in 2012, 2014, and 2016.

GUEST ARTISTS



BYU LIVING LEGENDS

Artistic Director: Jamie Kalama Wood

Rehearsal Directors: Moni Tiatia,
Kaika Cole, and Aileen Villalba

Celebrating the cultural heritage of the Americas and the Pacific Islands, Living Legends presents a vibrant concert of music, regalia, and dance. As they take the stage, talented performers of native descent share the rhythms and sounds of Polynesians, portray the strength and beauty of Native Americans, and reveal the energy and joy of Latin Americans. The authentic attire and choreography showcase stories of these cultures, both past and present, that remind all of us that we are truly the result of the love of thousands.



BALINESE AND GAMELAN GUESTS:

I Nyoman Windha and I Gusti Agung Aya Warsiki

Founded in 2008 by Dr. Jeremy Grimshaw, Gamelan Bintang Wahyu performs traditional, contemporary, and experimental works for Balinese gamelan, or percussion orchestra. The collection of sixteen bronze xylophones, dozens of gongs and gong chimes, heavy “ceng ceng” cymbals, drums, and bamboo flutes came from the shop of I Wayan Beratha (1926–2014), one of Indonesia’s most respected composers and craftsmen.

For the 2023–2024 school year, Gamelan Bintang Wahyu is honored to welcome guest director I Nyoman Windha, recently retired from a distinguished career on the faculty of the national conservatory in Denpasar, Bali. He is joined by his wife, guest dance instructor I Gusti Agung Ayu Warsiki, one of Bali’s foremost dancers and dance pedagogues. These world-class artists have helped forge an unprecedented and rich collaboration between the BYU School of Music and the BYU Department of Dance—a type of interdisciplinary collaboration that is central to the performing arts in Bali.

Gamelan Bintang Wahyu is open to BYU students as well as the wider community. Our members include majors from all over campus, faculty, staff, family members, alumni, and others. If you are interested in learning more about gamelan and perhaps sitting in on a rehearsal, please email jeremy.grimshaw@byu.edu.





CULTURAL DANCE CHOREOGRAPHERS



Tana Bybee



Mario Gamez Carillo



Jeanette Geslison



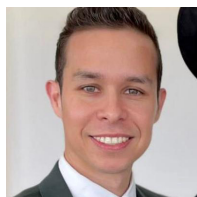
Amy Jex



Zsolt Juhász



Michael Malich



Miguel Peña



Vaishali Sagar



**Greg and Maria
Tucker**



Colleen Nelson West



Emilee Wright

Scan the QR code on the back cover of this program to read our choreographers' bios.

DANCE & MUSIC DIRECTORS

Jeanette Geslison

Artistic Director,
International Folk Dance Ensemble
2:00 Ensemble

Amy Jex

Director,
Tier 2 Ensemble, 9:00 Ensemble

Emilee Wright

Director, 10:00 Ensemble

Mark Geslison

Artistic Director, Mountain Strings

Kye Davis

Rehearsal Assistant,
International Folk Dance Ensemble

Spencer Waddell

Rehearsal Assistant, Tier 2 Ensemble

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Artistic Director Jeanette Geslison

Music Director Mark Geslison

Scriptwriter Teresa Love

Production Manager/Scenic Designer
Benjamin Sanders

Technical Director John Shurtleff

Prod. Stage Manager Crysta May Lamb

Lighting Designer Mark Ohran

Projection Designer Erin Bjorn

Sound Design & Recording Troy Sales

Production Assistant Jocelyn Southam

Assistant Stage Managers

Valeria Estrada & Erica Glenn

Deck Crew Walter Iverson

Lightboard Operator Hannah Tran

Voice-Over Parley Lambert & Elyna Mellen

Costume Coordinators Amy Handy (IFDE),
Charlotte Bennett (Living Legends)

Assistant Costume Coordinator

Amanda Alley (IFDE)

Audio Engineer Gabriella Warnick

Audio Assistant Liz Padgett & Renee Fowler

Photography Jaren Wilkey, BYU Photo

Promotional Video Scott Cook

Production Videos Isaiah Vela

Archival Recording Scott Cook

Marketing Services Mgr. Rex Kocherhans

Creative Services Mgr. Marin McKay Barney

Preshow Coordinators Emilee Wright,
Amy Jex, Jeanette Geslison

Children's Matinee Pre-show Coordinator

Greg Tucker

Alumni Reception Jared Fugal

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Dean
Ed Adams

Associate Dean
Amy Petersen Jensen

Assistant Dean
Melinda Semadeni

**Director, Marketing
and Production**
Troy Streeter

Associate Dean
Jeremy Grimshaw

Assistant Dean
Thaylene Rogers

**BRAVO! Producer
and Presenter**
Lyndsay Keith

Associate Dean
Eric Gillett

Assistant Dean
Don Powell

DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

Full-Time Faculty

Shayla Bott,
Department Chair
Adam Dyer, Amy Jex
Associate Chairs
Nathan Balsler
Liz Dibble
Jeanette Geslison
Curt Holman
Ashley Ivory Parov
Karen Jensen
Jamie Kalama Wood
Brent Keck
Marin Leggat Roper
Kate Monson

Keely Song
Kori Wakamatsu
Hilary Wolfley

Cultural Dance Faculty

Full-Time:
Jeanette Geslison
Amy Jex
Jamie Kalama Wood
Adjunct:
Tamara Chamberlain
Cassidy Coffey
Kaika Cole
Kye Davis

Cynthia Gubler
Kellianne Hinkle
Wendi Isaacson
Becki Love
Tyler Persson
Chante Stutznegger
Filemonii Tiatia
Greg Tucker
Maria Tucker
Kau'i Tuia
Aileen Villalba
Emilee Wright
Student Instructors:
Claire Farnsworth
Jillian Iverson

Tana Bybee

Dance Medicine and Wellness

Director:
Brenda Critchfield
Assistant Athletic Trainer:
Mariah Dawe-Johnson



Help us continue the unifying tradition of BYU Folk Dance. Scan the QR code
or visit give.byu.edu/folkdance today. We are grateful for your support!

There's so much more to celebrate!



- Scan the QR code above for
- Choreographers' bios
 - Summer Dance Camp info
 - Staying connected with alumni
 - IFDE scholarship recipients
 - Cultural dance classes at BYU



Follow us online to receive frequent updates on what we're working on, to stay in the loop on club happenings, and to get to know our team members.

Instagram: **@byu_folkdance**



Greetings to our Folk Dance Alumni! Join us for a reception in the Hinckley Center Ballroom following December 2nd's 2:00 p.m. matinee performance!



Stay connected to IFDE Alumni! BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble has been going strong since 1956. Our alumni website features a complete collection of *Christmas Around the World* posters and programs through the years. Catch up with changing club news reading the archived *The Folk Dancer* club newsletters. Where in the world have the folk dancers toured? Read those past tour histories, country locations, and see those colorful group photos. Our *In Memorium* page remembers those of our folk dance family who are no longer with us. Always available on the website is the calendar of upcoming folk dance performances and tours. We hope you will explore this website and share its treasures.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

CHOREOGRAPHERS' BIOS

Tana Bybee is from Provo, Utah, and is currently a senior at Brigham Young University majoring in dance. She is also a member of the BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble. Growing up she did ballet, jazz, hip-hop, and competitive ballroom dance. In college she was introduced to cultural dance and quickly gained a love for representing other cultures through dance. Being part Filipino, she enjoys learning Filipino cultural dances, and BYU's cultural dance program gave her the opportunity to learn more about Filipino dance. Tana also studied Filipino dance with the Kayamanan Ng Lahi Folk Dance Arts Organization in Los Angeles. She plans on continuing to study cultural dance after graduation and teach cultural dance styles.

Mario Gamez Carillo was born and raised in Chihuahua, Mexico, and was introduced to Mexican folklórico when he moved to Mexico City as a youth. Giving up basketball, he dove into the world of dance and was soon recognized by local companies. In 2006, he was invited to join the Jem-Miadtza dance company, National Folk Dance Champions of Mexico, and in 2011 Mario was part of the group invited to represent Mexico and Peru at the IV Encuentro Internacional de Folklore Mi Perú. Known for his excellence in dance, Mario has most recently performed with the BYU Living Legends and as a dancer in Luz de Las Naciones at the Conference Center in Salt Lake City. He has choreographed for Living Legends, Fiesta at BYU, and programs in Mexico City.

Jeanette Geslison is Associate Professor of Dance at Brigham Young University (BYU), where she currently serves as Artistic Director of the International Folk Dance Ensemble (IFDE). Jeanette has taught in the university setting since 1995 with an emphasis in cultural dance. A native from Odense, Denmark, she trained in classical ballet at the Odense Ballet Academy with other early training in jazz, tap dance, and child acting roles. Her pursuit of dance brought her to the United States and Brigham Young University, where she earned her BA and MA degrees in dance. In 2016 Jeanette received her MFA in performing arts dance from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, where she presented her choreographic thesis entitled "Hungarian Dance Works."

Cultural representation—its preservation, adaptation, and modification—lies at the heart of her academic research and choreographic interest. She investigates meanings of identity in cross-cultural dance expression, and the impact of intent and context in traditional dance. Jeanette's choreographic

works are a direct expression of these investigations. She produces and directs full-length dance productions, has taught workshops and master classes, and has presented papers nationally and internationally. She is immediate past-president of the National Folk Organization, a board member of International Council of Organization of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts (CIOFF) USA, and a member of International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM) Study Group on Ethnochoreology.

Amy Jex is an Assistant Professor and Associate Chair in the BYU Department of Dance. She directs Traditionz, a cultural dance outreach performance ensemble, and serves as area coordinator of the Cultural Dance Area. Amy received her early dance training at the Ballet West Academy and Janet Gray Studios. She holds a BA in humanities and an MA in dance from Brigham Young University. Amy's research interests include pedagogy, dance history, Ukrainian and Russian dance, Indian dance, character dance, and tap dance. She is an active member of the National Folk Organization, the Alberta Ukrainian Dance Association, and the National Dance Education Organization. Outside of BYU, Amy has been a guest instructor, presenter, adjudicator, and/or choreographer for Regional Dance America/Pacific, Utah Dance Education Organization, Mountain West Ballet, the International Dance Council (CID-UNESCO), and many school and church groups.

Zsolt Juhász, a Szeged-born dancer and choreographer, pursued his studies in folk dance pedagogy at the Hungarian Dance Academy between 1997 and 2000. He became the head choreographer at the Duna Dance Workshop in 1999 and was named artistic director of the Duna Art Ensemble in 2007. In the company's contemporary dance theatre productions, he has fused the wealth of forms from Hungarian folk dance with techniques from modern movement theatre. His ensemble regularly tours Hungary and other countries with the aim of instilling an interest in folk dance across broad sectors of the population. Over the course of his career he has been recognized for his work with numerous honors, having received several choreography and audience awards, as well as the Harangozó Award in 2003 and the Zoltán Imre Award in 2006. In 2007 he was decorated with the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary.

Michael Malich grew up in the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox community in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he has been a lifelong member of Sumadija Serbian Folk Dance Ensemble and its artistic director since 1997. Michael was a dancer with the Duquesne University Tamburitans and has continued to increase his folk dance acumen by attending Serbian folklore seminars in Europe. Michael has been a guest choreographer for the Tamburitans, BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble, Ethnic Dance Theatre, and various Serbian folk dance groups. Preserving Serbian folk culture in America is very important to Michael, and his ensemble has hosted the North American Serbian Folklore Seminar in Milwaukee for the past five years.

Miguel Peña, originally from Reynosa, Mexico, is a graduate from the University of Texas–Pan American, where he got his bachelor's and master's in electrical engineering. Miguel was the first recipient of a full scholarship awarded by the UT–Pan American Dance Department. He holds a masters of fine arts in dance from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. A professional dancer and choreographer, Miguel worked as a dancer with Espectáculo Jarocho under the direction of Richard O'Neal, where he was part of the ensemble for more than five years. He has worked nationally setting choreographic works for different dance companies such as BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble

and Living Legends, Ballet Folklórico Nacional de Milwaukee, and several Rio Grande Valley folklórico groups. He has choreographed special performances throughout the nation for important artists such as Paquita la del Barrio, Vikki Carr, Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, and Mariachi Sol de México. Under Peña's direction, the UTRGV Ballet Folklórico has received national recognition in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts during the American Dance College Festival in 2014, 2016, and 2018.

Vaishali Sagar hails from Mumbai, India, where she holds a master's degree in Indian folk dance under the guidance of Guru Rooma Banerjee. Currently she is the director of Kalanjay Dance Academy in Mumbai, India, with an enrollment of 900 dance students. She is an expert teacher of traditional Indian folk dances and Bollywood dance styles. She is also representing India at the FIDAF (Federation of International Dance Festival) based in South Korea and has recently won the bronze at the biggest folk dance competition in Asia, the Cheonan International Dance Festival. Her choreography and academy recently won the jury award at the Büyükçekmece Culture and Arts Festival in Turkey. Vaishali has also represented India in various international folk dance festivals based in Italy, Austria, Turkey, Greece, Germany, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, and Belgium.

Greg and Maria Tucker both began dancing as children and combined have over 76 years of clogging experience. After marrying in 1998, Greg and Maria toured with IFDE and also competed together, winning 7 national duet titles and over 20 other regional and state titles. They own and direct Rocky Mtn. Express Cloggers in Orem, which they founded in 1998. Their teams have won 31 national titles since that time. Greg and Maria love teaching in the Department of Dance at BYU, where they've been since 2007. They also own America On Stage, a dance competition production company. Their choreography has been seen in the 2002 Olympic Opening Ceremonies, Stadium of Fire, multiple football halftime shows, and on thousands of stages across the world. Movie and television credits include *Luck of the Irish* (Disney Channel), *Damsel* (Strophic Productions), *Live to Dance* (CBS), *So You Think You Can Dance* (FOX), the GEICO "clogging" commercial, and many, many more. Greg and Maria have four children whom they adore, all of whom are cloggers.

Colleen Nelson West's Ukrainian mother instilled in her a passion and love for Ukrainian dance. Completing a master's degree thesis on Ukrainian dance and culture only fueled the desire to pursue further research and study. Colleen has participated in many Ukrainian dance workshops, festivals, and professional organizations both in Ukraine and Canada. She has choreographed over 42 Ukrainian dances for major BYU dance concerts, local and national dance companies, festivals, dance classes, etc. She has also presented research on Ukrainian dance at several national and international professional organizations. Colleen is a retired Associate Professor of dance from Brigham Young University.

Emilee Wright has been dancing for as long as she can remember. She entered BYU well trained in jazz, ballet, tap, and contemporary, where she continued her education in those styles and learned new cultural dance forms. After graduating, she never really left BYU as she stayed to teach as adjunct faculty in the Department of Dance. Emilee loves learning, choreographing, and teaching dances from all different cultures, but specializes in tap, Indian (Bharatanatyam and Bollywood), and Spanish (Flamenco). She has choreographed for productions in various styles for the teams at BYU as well as studios and other productions around the state. She is excited to be involved in her 20th *Christmas Around the World!*

GAMELAN BINTANG WAHYU

Musicians:			Dancers:
Nathan Adams	Owen Grimshaw	Eleanor Smith	Tegwen Bryan
Emma Bills	Kenji Heimuli	Sarah Smith	Lindy Ham
Noah Christensen	Laura Ann Hicken	Alette Walker	Alli Lanigan
Dirk Elzinga	Loreen Keliiliki	Jens Watts	Elizabeth Rampton
Jared Ferrin	Jennifer Kimball	Noelle Watts	Jamison Thatch
Dallin Frank	Hannah Main	Micayla Wilkins	Marianne Young
Emma Frank	Jane Maughan	Maile Pualani Williams	
Grady Grimshaw	Heidi Reed	Nathan Wood	
	Rachael Sheffield		

2023–2024 IFDE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

We thank all who have generously contributed in supporting our program by providing students with scholarship opportunities. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Mary Bee Jensen Scholarship	Jillian Iverson Braden Duke
Excellence in Folk Arts Scholarship	Dawson Collins
Pardoe-Anderson Performance Scholarship	Makeila Morgan
Performance Missionary Award	Anthony Xanthos
Cherill Liptak Scholarship	Abby Collins Jade Madison
Harman Award	Ellie Geslison Madeline Charles
Folk Dance Alumni Scholarship	Clara Smilanick
The Spirit of Folk Dance Scholarship	Remington Comp
Colleen West Percussive Footwork Scholarship	Nate Cox
Bridgebuilder Scholarship	Tori Stone
Mark & Lisle Arnold Outstanding Mentor Award	Levi Hancock
Eric & Keesha McPherson Scholarship	Janelle Wilson Crozier Fitzgerald Matthew Peterson Arthur Prusso

If you are interested in providing scholarships for the folk dance program and its students, please contact Shane Wright at shane_wright@byu.edu or 801-422-3579 or visit GIVE.BYU.EDU/FOLKDANCE

CULTURAL DANCE CLASSES AT BYU

Dance 135, 235, 335: Tap Dance

Dance 278: Ukrainian Dance Tech. 1

Dance 170, 270, 370: Cultural Dance

Dance 279: Indian Dance Tech. 1

Dance 171, 271, 371: American Clog Dance

Dance 327R: Living Legends

Dance 172: American Folk Dance Forms

Dance 357: Dance—A Reflection of Culture

Dance 173R, 272: Culture-Specific Dance

Dance 376: Methods of Teaching World Dance

Dance 174, 274, 374: Irish Dance

Dance 377: Cultural Dance Choreography

Dance 273, 373: Hungarian Dance

Dance 378R: Folk Dance Performance

Dance 175, 275: Polynesian Dance

Dance 478R: International Folk Dance Ensemble

Dance 277: Spanish Dance Tech. 1

Dance 474R: Percussive Step Styles

SUMMER DANCE CAMPS

This summer, meet other kids from around the country and “travel the world” with the magic and music of international folk dancing taught by world dance experts! Enjoy fun activities with youth counselors from the BYU International Folk Dance Team, including a dance party, a trip to a water park, and a final dance performance!



dancecamps.byu.edu

2024

BYU | DANCE CAMPS