



# The Folk Dancer

The Official Newsletter of the BYU Folk Dance Alumni



Spring 2026



## Gathering Places

Christmas Around the World 2025

### Highlights:

- Epic Turkish Dance Medley choreographed by Ahmet Lüleci – Artvin (32 dancers) and Black Sea Tides of Anatolia (28 dancers)
- Irish Dance Medley choreographed by Tina Shelley, Aubree Shelley, and Kierica McPherson – performed by Shelley School of Irish Dance; Harp Irish Dance Company, and IFDE.
- BYU Scottish Highland Dance Club performed with the Wasatch & District Pipe Band
- Two new Ukrainian choreographies by Timothy Jaddock – Kupala & Arkan
- New Colombian Cumbia piece choreographed by student Piero Gongora
- Mountain Strings *Ciganocka* music piece

Thank you to everyone who came!

## Important Dates

### • Journey: Reflections

- Jan 29-30 @ 7:30 pm and Jan 31 @ 2 pm at the Dance Performance Theater, Richards Building, BYU campus, Provo, UT
- Find \$20 tickets [here](#).

### • Alumni REC Night

- March 11 at 7:00 pm in the Wilkinson Center Ballroom, BYU campus, Provo, UT

### • Journey: Mid-Semester Tour

- Feb. 24: Reno, Nevada
- Feb. 25: Modesto, California
- Feb. 26: Stockton, California
- Feb. 27: Oakland, California
- Feb. 28: Sacramento, California
- Find tickets [here](#).



### • Journey: Reflections

- March 31- and April 1 @ 7 pm
- Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center, Taylorsville, UT
- Find tickets [here](#).

### • Spring Festival of Nations

- April 11 @ 6 pm
- Wilkinson Center Ballroom, BYU campus, Provo, UT
- Tickets at the door

### • Traditionz Showcase

- April 15 @ 7:30 in 270-278 Richards Building, BYU Campus, Provo, UT
- Open to the public

### • Summer Tour- Romania, Hungary, and Belgium

- June 27-July 17
- Festival Inimilor, Timisoara, Romania, July 1-5
- Festival Hello Schoten!, Schoten, Belgium, July 10-17

### • Children's Folk Dance Camp

- June 8-10
- <https://folkdancecamp.ce.byu.edu/home>

## Christmas Around the World 2025 Continued:



Hungary: Szatmári Friss Csardas



Turkey: Tides of Anatolia



Ireland: Yuletide Medley



Colombia: La Pollera Colorá



Canada: Attache tes Bottines



Scotland: Royal Highland Broadsword



## Christmas Around the World 2025 Continued:



Mexico: Jalisco Madrugada



China: Mo Li Hua



Serbia: Dilmano, Dilbero



USA: Freight Train

### Announcements

- Can you believe it has been 70 years since the founding of the BYU folk dance program?! More to come on 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations later this year!
- Alumni fireside coming this year. More info to follow.

## Christmas Around the World 2025 Continued:



India: Ghar Waapasi



Ukraine: Hopak





## Christmas Around the World Alumni Reception



We had a great turn out at the reception! We had alumni from each decade in attendance (except for the 1950's). The 1990's decade won with the most representatives and with the farthest traveler: Cecilie Karnil Nørrung all the way from Denmark!



## 2025-2026 Scholarship Winners

- **Mary Bee Jensen Scholarship**
  - Anthony Xanthos & Bailey Tucker
- **Excellence in Folk Art Scholarship**
  - Levi Hancock
- **Viltis Scholarship**
  - Emma Richardson
- **Pardoe-Anderson Performance Scholarship**
  - Amy Nattress
- **Performance Missionary Award**
  - Piero Gongora & Cami Losik
- **Cherill Liptak Scholarship**
  - Savannah Savage & Sam Lindsay
- **Harman Award**
  - Christian Devey & Shaun Hicken
- **Folk Dance Alumni Scholarship**
  - Natalie Lund
- **The Spirit of Folk Dance Scholarship**
  - Emily Hanson
- **Colleen West Percussive Footwork Scholarship**
  - Cael Erickson
- **Bridgebuilder Scholarship**
  - Sam Devenport
- **Outstanding Mentor Award**
  - Carly Wanlass
- **Alumni Replenishment Grant**
  - Grant Fletcher

## Alumni Giving Opportunity

Please consider donating to one of the IFDE funds to help fund scholarships, future tours, etc.

- Click [here](#) to donate.
- Click “Search Other Funds” and enter the code 301501376.
- This pulls up the endowment fund “International Folk Dance Ensemble Touring - BYU”.
- In the “Search Other Funds” field, you can also enter “folk dance”. This will pull up several other funds you can donate to.
  - Folk Dance Alumni Replenishment Grant
  - Folk Dance Alumni
- Click “+Add”, then enter an amount in the appropriate box at the top of the page and continue filling out the form.



# The Folk Dancer - Spring 2026



## New Pieces This Fall!



Gary Larsen choreographed a new Hungarian Méhkeréki piece for 6 men, also to be premiered in *Journey*.



We had several exciting new pieces choreographed for the ensemble this fall. Divya Narayanan choreographed a new Indian Pushpanjali piece for 6 women. To be premiered in our upcoming *Journey* show.

(Photo includes Divya's daughter Mania.)

Greg & Maria Tucker also choreographed a new clogging piece: "Jammin' with Joe" for 6 dancers, to be premiered in *Journey* and will also be part of our festival repertoire in Europe this summer!



## Stay Connected

Visit our website at [byufolkdancealumni.com](http://byufolkdancealumni.com) to see Tour Histories, CAW programs and posters, newsletters, the archives, and more! We also have a "[BYU Folk Dance Alumni](#)" Facebook group. Join us!

Stay up-to-date with the current team:

- [BYU Folk Dance](#) on Facebook
- [byu\\_folkdance](#) on Instagram
- [byufolkdance](#) on Tiktok
- [BYU International Folk Dance](#) on Youtube

Aren't getting our emails? Then please email [alumni@byufolkdancealumni.com](mailto:alumni@byufolkdancealumni.com)

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## Folk Dance Rewind: 1998-1999

As part of our newsletter, we would like to highlight some fun moments from years past that can be found in our BYU Folk Dance Archives.



Homecoming Parade

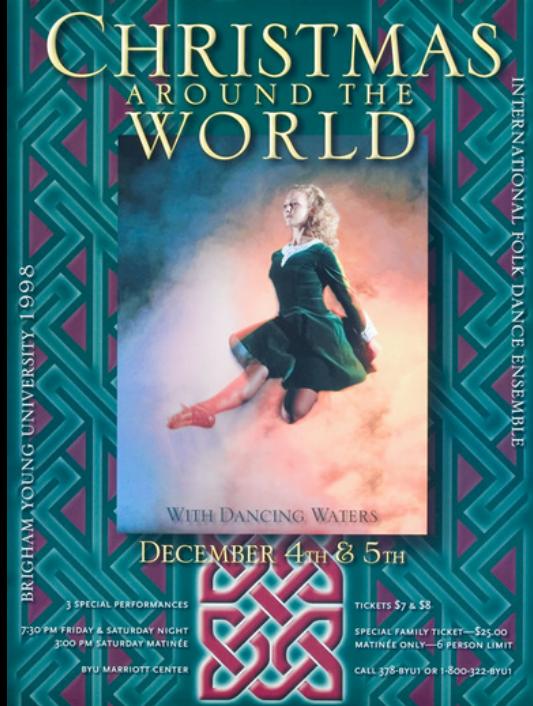


Lane Hunter in Welsh Clog



Maria and Greg Tucker in American Clog

## Folk Dance Rewind: 1998-1999



Christmas Around the World:  
Lithuanian, Russian, and Finale

## Folk Dance Rewind: 1998-1999



Tour Photo



Performing in front of the Harry S. Truman Historic Site in Independence, Missouri



Liberty Jail