



BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble

Tour History 2024-2025

2025

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PERSONNEL

Dancers

Lizzie Beard
Brielle Comp
Ellie Erickson
Emily Hanson
Amy Hawkes
Cami Losik
Natalie Lund
Amy Nattress
Savannah Savage
Clara Smilanick
Sierra Stahly
Bailey Tucker
Emma Richardson
Carly Wanlass

Bryce Barker
Tanner Birtcher
Alex Beard
Tyson Boxer
Nate Cox
Samuel Devenport
Christian Devey
Cael Erickson
Piero Gongora
Levi Hancock
Samuel Lindsay
Shaun Hicken
Dallin Lyon
Anthony Xanthos

Musicians

(Summer Festival tour)

Madeline Charles
Ellie Geslison
Emily Wall
Arthur Prusso
Tyler Anderson
Jared Ferrin

Tech Crew

(Mid-Semester tour)

Allison Bertasso
Abraham Gutierrez
Emily Jay
Justin Small
Lydia Stewart

Leadership

Artistic Director: Jeanette Geslison
Music Director: Mark Geslison
Technical Director: Mark Ohran
Tour Manager: Stacey Christensen
Videographer: Josh Sales

IDAHO / OREGON

Mid-Semester Tour
„Journey: Reflections“

November 4-10, 2024





01

Monday,
November 4

First day of tour! We met bright and early, 5:30 AM at the RB to load the bus and head out for Caldwell Idaho! We had about a six hour drive before we reached our destination where we had an amazing lunch ready for us prepared by a local dance studio organized by a BYUI Folk Dance alumni. Then we headed to the venue to set up which was interesting to say the least, to get to our dressing rooms we had to go around and down a set of stairs. Luckily we were able to put up a curtain behind the stage for quick changes, but we were still hard pressed to get on stage in time. Even though it wasn't an optimal venue layout the show went well! We had a full house, there were a lot of folk dance alumni in the audience, and there were a lot of great moments on stage!





Another amazing day! We began with an outreach at VanBuren elementary school in Caldwell, Idaho which was very nostalgic for many of us coming from Traditionz last semester. We had to improvise due to only having one entrance on the side of the stage, but it ended up being a great show! The kids were such a great audience and afterwards were excited to tell us what their favorite part was. A large group of them lined up to hug Amy Hawkes in her bright Bollywood costume. Then, it was off to our evening venue, Five Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, Oregon to set up the stage and block. The show that night was another great one and we struck the set in record time! Finally, we had a 2.5 hour bus ride to our hotel before we could finally rest.

02

**Tuesday,
November 5**

03

**Wednesday,
November 6**

The day started off a little stressful when we realized there was a mistake in the itinerary and we had an hour less than we planned to get to our next venue, Sisters High School in Sisters, Oregon which put us back for the rest of the day. Thankfully, we got it figured out and there were no major problems. After getting the stage set up, half of us did an outreach with the students from the Sisters Dance Academy & Music/Drama. We taught sections of Bollywood and Charleston and it was so fun to see how quickly the students caught on!

Jeanette had a little PTSD the entire day because it was the same place IFDE was back in 2020 when they got told to turn around and go home because of COVID. Not this time though! We had a great show and got no call to come back to Provo! One thing that was interesting about this show was how dark it was when exiting the stage, we all had to stretch our arms out and walk slowly to make sure we didn't run into the light trees.





Anthony Xanthos

Thursday,
November 7

04

Today was an interesting day. After a three hour drive to the Dalles that morning, we arrived to find out that our venue consisted of a small stage at an old school. Our dressing rooms were nowhere near the stage, and had the longest 'cross behind' (more like cross under) we'd ever seen. On top of that, some of us found out that The Dalles High School is allegedly haunted, which means trying to scare each other on the team. Before our performance, a few of us performed at Dry Hollow

Elementary School where we danced several dances from Clogging, Saman, Hallingdances, Hoop, Marinera, Brazil, Slovakian, Indian, and Hopak! It was so fun and the kids loved the dances! While it was definitely a struggle to get situated, we found places for everyone to change, figured out how to dance on such a small stage, and planned how to minimize crossing under the stage to save as much time as possible. It ended up being another great show and a ton of fun!



Jeanette Geslison





This morning was a three hour morning drive to our venue, The LaSells Stewart Center at Oregon State University! After setting up the stage, half of us drove a couple of minutes away to our outreach with InMotion, a local ballroom dance company that Anthony Xanthos danced with in high school! We even got to see his little brother there! We had a tiny space, but had tons of fun teaching them parts of Bollywood and Oberek! Then, we headed back to Oregon State campus for one of the best meals of the tour! Our hosts had such great food for us here, it was amazing!

Finally, it was time to perform. You think they would have a great stage for us, and they did in most respects, but it was really shallow. Some of us almost knocked over the screen in the show! Despite the close calls, we averted the crisis and had an awesome show with a great crowd. The entirety of InMotion was there to watch and cheer us on!

Friday,
November 8

05

The last day of the tour was great! We had a 15 minute drive to our venue, Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon and arrived to a marley floor already set up! Everyone was happy to see that! In addition, the stage was the biggest we had performed on yet! The only minor issue was no stage left dressing room, but we found enough space for those who needed it.

After setting up we all headed to our outreach which was a multi-stake youth activity with the youth from the Santa Clara Stake! We taught them several recreational night dances and had so much fun!

After a great lunch we headed back to the venue to block and prep for the show. It was definitely one of our best shows yet and was a great way to end the tour! In the middle of our show, BYU was in the middle of an intense football game with the Utes. A number of us had the show streaming from our phones so we could watch as we changed. Somehow, BYU clutched out the 22-21 win to continue a 9-0 winning streak this season! We had an incredible time celebrating the win after the show!

06

Saturday, November 9



Alex & Lizzie Beard



Shaun Hicken



07

Sunday,
November 10



Travel day back to Provo, Utah! We stopped at the Vista House outlook to see the Columbia river. It was incredible. We then continued our bus ride and drove past Multnomah waterfall. We also ate some yummy food at Burgerville. It was an incredible ride! We were so blessed to spend time in the wonderful state of Oregon!

itinerary

Truck Driver: John Shurtleff
17 Women, 16 Men, 2 Leaders, 1 Driver, 1
PAM Staff

Monday, November 4

5:30 am	Meet at RB, grab breakfast, load bus
5:50 am	Depart for Caldwell, ID (6 hrs / 405 miles)
12:00 pm	Lunch - LDS Stake Center (10 min from venue)
12:50 pm	Depart for Performance Hall
1:00 pm	Load in, blocking
4:30 pm	Dinner – at venue (Served Upstairs)
6:30 pm	House Opens
7:00 pm	Performance
8:30 pm	Performance ends. Greet audience. Strike and load out. Post-performance snack
9:30 pm	Travel to hotel (15 min / 11 miles)

Tuesday, November 5

9:15 am	Meet at RB, grab breakfast, load bus
10:00 am	Depart for Caldwell, ID (6 hrs / 405 miles)
11:00 am	Lunch - LDS Stake Center (10 min from venue)
12:00 pm	Depart for Performance Hall
1:00 pm	Load in, blocking
4:30 pm	Dinner – at venue (Served Upstairs)
6:30 pm	House Opens
7:00 pm	Performance - Ontario, OR
8:30 pm	Performance ends. Greet audience. Strike and load out. Post-performance snack
	Travel to hotel (15 min / 11 miles)

Wednesday, November 6

9:00 am	Breakfast at hotel
10:00 am	Depart for Sisters, OR (3 hrs 10 min / 282 miles)
	TIME CHANGE (1 hour back)

12:00 pm	Lunch - at Sisters High School
1:00 pm	Load-in, blocking
3:30 pm	Sisters Dance Academy & Music/Drama Students Outreach (60 min)
4:30 pm	Dinner - at Sisters High School
6:30 pm	House opens
7:00 pm	Performance
8:30 pm	Performance ends. Greet audience. Strike and load-out. Post-performance snack.
9:30 pm	Travel to hotel (5 min / 1 mile)

Thursday, November 7

	Breakfast at hotel
9:30 am	Depart for The Dalles, OR (2 hrs 35 min / 135 miles)
12:00 pm	Lunch - at Stake Center
1:00 pm	Depart for High & Elementary Schools (The Dalles First to drop people to set up, then to the outreach with the other half) (8 min drive total)
1:15 pm	Stop 1: The Dalles High School Stop 2: Dry Hollow Elementary School
1:00 pm	Load-in, blocking
1:45 pm	Elementary School Outreach (45 min)
2:30 pm	Pick up outreach people and head to The Dalles High School for dinner (5 min drive total)
4:30 pm	Dinner - at venue
6:30 pm	House opens
7:30 pm	Performance
9:00 pm	Performance ends. Greet audience. Strike and load-out. Post-performance snack.
9:30 pm	Travel to hotel (10 min)

Friday, November 8

	Breakfast at hotel
9:00 am	Depart for Corvallis, OR (3 hrs / 167 miles)
12:00 pm	Lunch - at venue
1:00 pm	Load-in, blocking
2:00 pm	Depart for outreach (4 min drive)
2:30 pm	InMotion Dance Company Workshop (60 min)
5:00 pm	Dinner - at venue

6:30 pm	House opens
7:00 pm	Performance
8:30 pm	Performance ends. Greet audience. Strike and load-out. Post-performance snack.
9:30 pm	Travel to hotel (1 hr)

Saturday, November 9

	Breakfast at hotel
9:00 am	Depart for Eugene, OR Santa Clara Stake Center Cultural Hall (15 min / 10 miles)
9:30 am	Arrive at Stake Center
10:00 am	Stake Youth Outreach Event (Dance workshop)
11:15 am	Refreshments for the youth attendees
11:30 am	Lunch - in Relief Society Room for BYU group
12:30 pm	Depart for Lane Community College (20-30 min depending on traffic / 15 miles)
1:00 pm	Load-in, blocking
4:30 pm	Dinner - at venue
6:30 pm	House opens
7:00 pm	Performance
8:30 pm	Performance ends. Greet audience. Strike and load-out. Post-performance snack.
9:30 pm	Travel to hotel (15 min)

Bus details: Holiday Bus Company
BYU Travel Agent: Wendy Baumgarten

Sunday, November 10

	Breakfast at hotel
8:00 am	Depart for Provo (13 hrs / 826 miles) (with tops and the time change it looks like 15 hrs)
12:30 pm	Rest stop in Burns, OR. Lunch - per diem
1:15 pm	Load up again
6:15 pm	Rest stop in Twin Falls, ID. Dinner - per diem
7:00 pm	Load up again
	TIME CHANGE (1 hour forward)
12:00 am	Arrive in Provo

JOURNEY

Journey: Reflections

Poland: Oberek

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

Brazil: Bailares Gaúchos

This exciting medley of Brazilian Gaucho dances begins with Tirana do Lenço, a courtship dance originally from 18th century Spain, that expresses a lady's gradual acceptance of her suitor's romantic advances. After 100 years in South America, the Brazilian Tirana do Lenço became a tradition unto itself, characterized by a taste for accordion music and intricate footwork. This is followed by a men's chula, a percussive dance performed over a spear that arose from competitions between cattle drivers on the road from Rio Grande do Sul to São Paulo. The medley concludes with the cheerful Rancheiro de Carreirinha, a 19th century social dance that grew from the European waltz and mazurka and was infused with exciting Brazilian rhythms.

Choreography: Mateus Arruda Antunes

Music: "Tirana do Lenço" (traditional), recorded by Leandro Berlesi; "Chula (traditional)", recorded by Ricardo Bergha and Gabriel Maculan; "Ranheira de Carreirinha" (traditional), recorded by Leandro Berlesi

Canada: Attache ta Tuque!

Using a variety of styles of step dancing from Eastern Canada (Ottawa Valley, Cape Breton and Quebecois styles), this is a lively fusion of historical and contemporary music and dance expressions reveling in complexity and playfulness.

Choreography: Gary Larsen

Music: "Shoot the Moon" (Ten Strings and a Goad Skin)
Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

Philippines: Mabuhay!

"Mabuhay," a Filipino greeting, is usually expressed as "mabuhay!" meaning "to live!" or "live!" or "long live." In this medley we present two traditional Filipino dances. First Sayaw Sa Bangko, where dancers must use good skill and balance while performing exciting movement on narrow benches. This is followed by 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!

Choreography: Tana Bybee

Music: "Sayaw Sa Bangko" (traditional), recorded by RCLA; and "Tinakling" (traditional)

USA: Dancin' in the Country

Showcasing the current "Power Tap" Style of American Clogging mixed with Traditional footwork, ending with a celebration of the fun and excitement that clogging brings.

Choreography: Greg & Maria Tucker

Music: "Dancin' in the Country" (Tyler Hubbard); "Blues Berry Hill" (Nitty Gritty Dirt Band), and "Cuckoo's Nest" (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings
Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

Peru: Marinera Norteña

"Marinera Norteña is the national dance of Peru, known for its elegance, flirtatious style, and symbolic representation of courtship. It is set to lively music that blends Indigenous, Spanish, and African influences, featuring instruments like the guitar and cajón. The dance reflects the vibrant, mixed cultural heritage of Peru and has evolved as a key part of the region's identity. The dance is not just a performance but also a cultural expression of pride, elegance, and resilience, often reflecting the spirit of Peru.

Choreography: Piero Gongora

Music: "Que Baile Maria Teresa" (Juan Benites Reyes), recorded by Inspiración Criolla and Nataly Shantelle
Soloist: Piero Gongora

India: Pushpanjali

"Pushpanjali" is a traditional invocatory piece in bharatanatyam style, the oldest classical dance form from the southern part of India. The word pushpanjali literally means "offering flowers to the almighty." More than 2,000 years old, this exquisite dance form combines facial expression, subtle eye movements, hand gestures, and explosive rhythmic footwork to integrate mind, body, and spirit. Most classical dance forms are based on Hindu mythological stories.

Choreography: Divya Narayanan
Music: "The Chase," by Amit Heri and Mani Sharma; recorded by Gayathri; "Dance like a Man," by Ganesh and Kumaresh; recorded by Ganesh and Kumares

India: Ghar Waapasi

Bollywood is a film industry based in Mumbai, India. Bollywood films are known for elaborate song-and-dance scenes, extravagant sets and costumes, and melodrama. The Bollywood dance style combines traditional Indian dances with Western contemporary styles such as hip-hop. In our story, a successful warrior returns home to reconnect with a beloved childhood friend. Will his love be returned?

Choreography: Greg Rawlings and Sally Rawlings
Music: "Malhari" (Sanjay Leela Bhansali, with lyrics by Prashant Ingole), recorded by Vishal Dadlani; "Laal Ghagra" (Tanishk Bagchi, Manj Musik, and Herbie Sahara), recorded by Manj Musik, Herbie Shara, and Neha Kakkar
Soloists: Tanner Birtcher and Amy Hawkes

Hungary: Dulandlé

In Kalotaszeg, Transylvania, a dulandlé was placed on the head of the new wife until the birth of the portrays 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), that is manifest in its speed and virtuosity.

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

Slovak Republic: Lúčnica

"ForeverYoung," best describes this set of two dances from Slovakia: Verbunk & Syracovy. also is the name of the Slovak National Folklore Ballet, our friends in Bratislava.

Choreography: Ervin Varga
Re-staging: Jeanette Geslison
Music: Traditional
Musical Arrangement: Peter Jantosciak, performed by Mountain Strings

Norway: Hallingdances

This acrobatic and competitive men's dance derives from Hallingdal in rural central Norway. Often performed at celebrations or gatherings, the men use the dance to show off skills and fitness to the girls. Nowadays it is danced by both men and women.

Choreography: Traditional
Staging: Jeanette Geslison and Anthony Xanthos
Music: "Rotnheimsknut" (traditional), recorded by Øyvind Brabant
Soloist: Anthony Xanthos

Indonesia: Saman

This dance form originates from the Gayo people of Aceh Province in northern Sumatra. Traditionally performed for national or religious celebrations, these dances unify villages. The saman dance tradition includes live singing by the performers, with lyrics that tell folktales to give counsel or offer spiritual enlightenment. Often referred to as the "dance of a thousand hands," the dancers sit in a long line and produce shifting rhythms with their hands.

Choreography: Rustin Van Katwyk
Music: "Hai Jala" and "Hayla Hotsa" (traditional); drums by Piero Gongora and Dallin Lyon

USA: The Breakaway Rag

This Charleston-style tap dance hearkens back to the Jazz Age.

Choreography: Jacob Madsen
Music: "Ain't She Sweet" (Milton Ager and Jack Yellen), recorded by BYU Mountain Strings
Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison
Soloists : Dallin Lyon and Clara Smilanick

USA: Charleston

The Charleston dance craze of the 1920s was popularized by the rhythms of James P. Johnson's tune "The Charleston." It was made popular in Harlem and on stages worldwide.

Choreography: Colleen West, with Emily Hatch

Music: "Five Foot Two" (Ray Henderson), recorded by BYU Mountain Strings

Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

First Nations of North America: Hoop Dance

The Native American hoop dance highlights circular relationships or cycles of life. Dancers use hoops to tell the story of life through the eyes of an eagle. The hoops represent the many plants and animals that an eagle would see throughout its life, and, most importantly, they show how these living creatures harmoniously work together to perpetuate the renewal of life—the end of one life leads to the beginning of a new life.

Choreography: Cami Losik

Music: "Power to my People" (Northern Cree), recorded by Northern Cree

Soloist: Cami Losik

Ireland: Irish Blessing

Music: "Irish Blessing" (Geoff Groberg), recorded by BYU Mountain Strings and the International Folk Dance Ensemble

Lyrics: Traditional

Ukraine: Hopak

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 and Jeanette Geslison, with Edwin G. Austin Jr.

Music: Traditional; recorded by the Intermountain Symphony Orchestra

Musical Arrangement: Tyler Castleton and Daniel Lee

"A girl from Peru that has been living in Spain for several years came to our show in Caldwell. She told me that when she saw the marinera she felt like she was home again. She is going to see us in Europe!!"

"As we were greeting people before our show in Sisters, I complimented a combat veteran's hat and pins. He soon came back out to show me them and asked which one I wanted to know more about. I pointed to his feathered one and he explained that's from his polish grandfather. It was awesome, because I happened to be in the Polish/Oberek costume and he was so excited to learn that we were representing something he deeply loved."

Shaun Hicken, Sisters, OR

"During the outreach in Sisters, we taught Bollywood and Charleston to the local dance studio. Then, after the show they performed them for us while we greeted people in the lobby. They were so excited to know part of the dances and it made my night!"

Sierra Stahely, Sisters, OR

"A man from the Eugene, Oregon show said that he played the guitar in Mountain Strings back in the day and met his wife, a dancer on IFDE. He showed beautiful pictures of his wife dressed in Hopak regalia and proceeded to take pictures with Carly in her Hopak regalia and his four daughters. It was a full circle moment and lovely tender mercy."

Tanner Birtcher, Eugene, Oregon

"The girls at the outreach performed for IFDE members after the show to show their appreciation. They loved the outreach and the dance."

"A senior couple served in Ukraine and really loved Hopak."

Samuel Devenport, Caldwell, ID

"I want to join this group." Three girls in the Joyes during intermission.

Jeanette, Ontario, OR

"An older man took four tries to take a picture of us after the show and then he told us that the show was the best thing he's seen! Others said that they were so impressed by the athleticism demonstrated throughout the entire show and all the colors! They were particularly impressed with tinkling."

Emily Hanson, Sisters, OR

"An elderly couple bought some merch from us and let us know that she was just baptized a few weeks ago! It was amazing to hear her story of how her husband baptized her. I love how the Gospel brings people together."

Bailey Tucker, Sisters, OR

"A lady introduced Sav and I to her grandmother who is 99 years old! She said she will be turning 100 in January! The 99 year old lady said that she had come to the show in Sisters back in 2020 as well."

Anthony Xanthos, Sisters, OR

WE
TODAY

ITALY FESTIVALS

Latium Festival
TerraNostra Festival

July 22 - August 17, 2025



01

Tuesday,
July 22

Today we met early at the RB at 5:15am. It was so early, haha. Ellie Smith and Cael accidentally slept too long and missed the bus! They had to get themselves to the airport, but they made it before we checked in so all was well. Our first flight was to Detroit where we had a 3 hour layover and walked through the mile-long terminal searching for food. We then hopped on a 9 hour flight to Rome, Italy. Everyone and all the baggage made it in one piece, thankfully. Then, we found our bus and festival guides and headed to Cori for our first festival.



02

Wednesday,
July 23

Our first full day in Italy! We're staying at an old elementary school built by Mussolini in the early 1900's. Our rooms are filled with bunk beds and there is no air conditioning! After we arrived and hefted our bags up the stairs we ate lunch (pasta and chicken) and went out to explore Cori. By this point it was the middle of the day, and quite hot. We managed to find a gelato shop that was open and stormed the counter. I got an excellent combination of lemon and strawberry topped with whipped cream. We sat for a while outside of the gelato place waiting for the grocery store to reopen at 4 (the end of siesta time). After briefly exploring the store, we returned to the school where we played games like "guess the movie" and "smurfing," and spent a while getting to know some of the members of the team from New Zealand (who are staying in the room next to ours). For dinner we had pasta, beans, and eggplant, and some wonderful plums. We then wandered up to the temple on the hill and got round two of gelato. Then we all returned home to shower and finally sleep!



We had the interesting experience of eating cereal with warm milk. During the day, Mountain Strings was in the hallway playing some music, and it evolved into a jam session with Mexico where they played together and traded songs. Eventually, Puerto Rico came out and joined in on the jam session. It was awesome! Everyone was excited. That was the first big group interaction between the teams.

The rest of the morning and afternoon were spent hanging out and some team members explored Cori more. In the evening, we hiked a trail for a mile with all of the groups until we came to a lake. There was a small crowd gathered, and the festival officially commenced. Each group took a turn presenting dances for several minutes. The groups included Cori, Mexico, us, Puerto Rico, Ecuador, Colombia, Benin, and New Zealand. The grass where we danced was pretty uneven and hard to dance in. There were large

03

Thursday,
July 24

dips and holes and a section of taller grass where we kicked up a lot of hay when doing the Jessie polka. Bryce Barker slipped during the Jessie polka and pulled Ellie down with him. Then, he hopped up and kept going but forgot to help Ellie up in his haste. It seemed like everyone enjoyed the performances. We enjoyed refreshments outside then traveled back home for dinner. It seemed like the groups were interacting with one another a little more after the event. I made some friends from Ecuador in the dinner line.

A small group went and got gelato around 11:15PM. We were very surprised to see so many Italians out and about! There were lots of adults and teenagers getting gelato and sitting at the tables by the park. Italians like to come out at night when it's not so hot outside. The group is getting quite adept at ordering gelato.



04

Friday,
July 25

Today we went to Rome! We discovered yesterday afternoon that we'd have a completely free day. Everyone got to do their own thing! Most people hit the Colosseum, the Trevi fountain, and the Vatican/ Sistine Chapel/St. Peter's Basilica. Some people even went to the Rome temple! It was a day full of yummy food and lots of walking. On the bus ride home, Sam D. told stories of tuning into people who speak Russian. And Nate told the story of how he almost got pick-pocketed but stopped the guy before he could. Then we got home and went to bed!



Wow! What a successful day on tour! We had our first parade and performance in Tagliacozzo - a city about 1.5 hours away from our base camp in Cori. Today felt like the festival was really getting started! We started off by sleeping in after a long day in Rome yesterday. We woke up around 9/9:30 to some of the other groups practicing their dances and music. We got together as a team to prep and plan for our evening show - Clara shared a spiritual thought and it was nice to recenter ourselves before a short practice.

After lunch we got ready then got on the bus for our drive. Once we got to Tagliacozzo we got ready for our parade. We walked up and around a beautiful street into a plaza with a fountain. We sang some Oh Susana and danced our parade set and Salty Dog Rag. There were so many kids and people we handed cards, slap bracelets, stickers, and bandanas to. After the parade we danced in an impromptu Exhibition Square while at the same time there were loud drums from the Benin group and bells from the church. Good thing Mountain Strings is the best and we were able to follow them as we danced!

While we waited for the bus to dinner we danced with our friends from Benin and learned a traditional Italian dance called Saltarella Abruzzese. We went to a restaurant and ate the pasta and tomato sauce that has now become a staple for our meals. We then went back and got ready for the show! It started around 9pm. About half of our group went up on the stage to represent us during the welcome part of the show. It was cool to watch and sing as they played the National anthem from each of the countries represented.

Show order: Italian group from Tagliacozzo, Benin, Italian choir group, USA! We had some quick changes, but everyone did great! Emily fell on her face in Appalachian and Tanner lost a tap in Wildfire, but from what I heard, everything else was great! The crowd loved us which helped us have a lot of energy! By the time we were done it was about 11:45pm! After packing up and making our millionth gelato run, we walked to the bus, and we're now on our way home!

05
Saturday,
July 26



06

Sunday,
July 27



Technically, today started in Tagliacozzo with the promise of a ninety minute ride back to Cori. By the time we reached the school (around 2:30am) we were all out of it, though most of us were still running strong on the gelato we'd gotten last minute in the small, mountain town. Because of our late arrival we slept in. And in. And in. The dining halls didn't see a single American this morning, and it didn't even see all of us for lunch!

Regardless, we all made it across southeastern Cori—now covered in red-and-blue flags and banners to celebrate Cori's three clans—to the hotel that the directors are staying at, where we had a beautiful meeting under the relieving shade of a verdant Italian garden. Alex gave a powerful message about our relationship with the Savior and how He helps us become more than we are now. The meeting then

opened up to general thoughts and testimonies, letting us share the Spirit together and keep the Sabbath day holy.

After the meeting a bunch of us stayed for a Come, Follow Me discussion, then we all got back to the school to get ready for our show. We rode out to Latina, a humid town by the coast that blends the quaint Italy we've come to know with the more rigid, utilitarian style that remains from the times of Mussolini. In the town square we performed with almost all the other countries (Mexico, Ecuador, Benin, us, and Colombia). Little wind blew through to cool us down, but we danced our hearts out anyway, modifying for the small stage and making it look fantastic (Bryce and Sierra's frog leap in Lindy was all the rage)! It was another late performance (9:00 parade and 9:30 show), but we loved it!

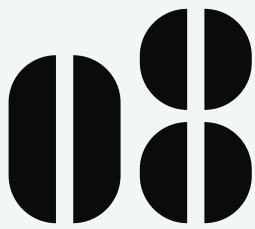


Monday,
July 28

07

After a late night the day prior, we woke up a mere 4-5 hours later to get ready to leave for the Colosseum in Rome where we would get to perform! Most of us took naps on the way, but were ready and excited to perform in such a cool place. When we arrived in Rome, we started to parade over to the Colosseum and the people started to crowd around in large numbers! Not only that, but it started to POUR on us. We had nothing we could do but get totally rained on, but it was honestly awesome! Once the rain cleared we headed to the front side of the Colosseum and the police helped create a "stage" space by pushing the people out so we could have an area of the cobblestone to dance on. There were so many people around, it was an awesome crowd! All the groups got a chance to do a three minute dance and we went last doing Exhibition Square and the second half of Showdown. It was amazing, all of us had SUCH a good time! It was the most surreal experience. Then, tons of people came up to get pictures with us and we handed out our stickers, bandanas, etc. After getting plenty of photos, we went back to the bus and headed back to Cori (another nap time for many). Once we got back we had some lunch, free time, dinner later in the evening and then a party at 9:30pm! The party was in the square of a local church and they had music, party lights, snacks, and drinks (for all other groups...). We danced and partied with all the groups, which was so fun! Nothing is more special than using dance to gather people from all over the world!





Tuesday,
July 29

After a fun day yesterday, we kicked off the morning with a great rehearsal from 10 to 12, practicing for our upcoming shows! It was a success :) I always love getting to rehearse together as a team, especially with the band—it's such a good vibe. We had some free time afterward to relax; a few of us played volleyball and soccer while waiting for lunch. Later in the day, some of us made a quick pit stop for gelato and went to the grocery store to grab more snacks and little gifts for our new friends at the festival. We love meeting new groups and sharing cultural gifts—it's such a fun way to connect!

That evening, we had the pleasure of watching Mountain Strings perform at a beautiful chapel. They even played some of their original songs! They were so amazing and played so beautifully. Puerto Rico also performed with us, making it a really fun and memorable night! Amy N's family surprised us with some yummy snacks after the performance—so sweet of them, and we loved every bite. Thanks, Natress fam! haha :) We ended the night watching "When in Rome" (a great funny rom com, we loved it!) on Levi's projector downstairs in the gym—laying on mattresses and watching a movie projected from the ceiling was such a cozy, fun way to end a great day!

Ellie Geslison & Mexican musicians





09

Wednesday,
July 30

We had another lazy morning today with no planned activities until our departure for Tivoli at 4:30pm. Several team members passed the time with trips to Art Cafe for gelato, movies (Cars 2 in the girls' bedroom), and even Youtube videos once we discovered how to use the touchscreen TVs in the bedrooms. A thunderstorm struck while we were steaming costumes and prepping to board the bus to Tivoli (there was some really close lightning)! I think Tivoli was much cooler than any of us expected it to be. We first performed at Villa d'Este, an incredible villa with painted ceilings (like mini Sistine Chapels!) and BEAUTIFUL gardens with more than a hundred fountains (several signs boasted the fact). It was a shame we couldn't spend more time in the gardens—after our mini performance (we did 12 couple Western Wildfire) in front of one of the larger fountains, we were corralled pretty quickly to our evening venue. We were fed a light dinner of

egg sandwiches before our show in the Sanctuary of Hercules Victor (a restored Roman amphitheater). The sunset was gorgeous during the band's sound-check. The tiny stage meant that we could only use one of the squares for exhibition square, and the men's hambone proved a little disastrous because we had never tried the entrance with the band and we were cramped onstage, but it was absolutely a memorable performance in an amazing location! When we got back to Cori there was an extra late dinner waiting for us (about 12:45am). The zucchini lasagna was a hit.



Beach day!! We drove about an hour to Sperlonga beach. It was amazing. The water was warm. It was our first time swimming in the Tyrrhenian sea. We had so much fun playing chicken, wrestling, and splashing each other in the water. A small group of us also buried Shaun and Emma in the sand. They became mermaids for about an hour. After swimming for hours, people went out to grab dinner and explore the town. We then headed back to Cori, Italy for a workshop with the Italian flag twirling group.

The flag bearers performed a number for us. It was crazy! They were perfectly in sync with the trumpets and drums on their movements. One man even juggled three flags at a time! After their performance, we had the opportunity to learn some flag twirling combos and throws from the flag bearers. All of us, including the flag bearers, were amazed with Natalie's flag twirling abilities as she performed with cologuard in high school.



10

Thursday,
July 31



Friday,
August 1



The team left early in the morning to walk to a nearby gymnastics gym and summer camp, where we held a short outreach activity with about 40 children participating in the camp. Although this outreach wasn't originally organized by the festival, we were eager for more performance and outreach opportunities. With the help of our guide Valentina, we were able to put this experience together.

For the performance, we danced several pieces from our set: Texas Fandango, Calico Darling, Exhibition Square, Appalachian Patchwork (just the hambone portion), and Showdown. Cami Losik also performed her hoop dance. After the performance, each dancer partnered with a camper, and we taught them a few simple dances, including the Heel Toe Polka and Virginia Reel. The kids loved the experience, and we enjoyed getting to know them. We gave them lots of stickers and bandanas, and they graciously fed us pizza after the event.

In the afternoon, we held a short rehearsal to prepare for our evening show in Cisterna, about a 30-minute drive away. We left around 7:00 PM. The evening began with a short parade through the town lasting about fifteen minutes. We were the last of four

groups to perform, closing the show with a 20-minute set. Our program included: Texas Fandango, Calico Darling, Traveler, the Hambone from Appalachian Patchwork, Dancing in the Country, Showdown, Georgia Railroad (a band number featuring Ellie and Arthur doing some flatfooting), and Fiddle in the Band. Tonight was the tour debut of Fiddle in the Band, and everything came together beautifully.

One funny moment during the performance came when Nate Cox decided to enter the stage well before the rest of the guys. While the announcer was still introducing our group, Nate walked on in his Texas outfit and pretended to fall asleep center stage. The announcer took much longer than any of us expected, so Nate ended up "asleep" on stage for several minutes before the rest of the group joined him.

We also got some laughs from a mishap during Hambone: both Sam Lindsay and Sam Devenport—two of the six dancers meant to be on stage—forgot to enter, leaving only four performers. Despite the surprises, it was a great performance and a wonderful day overall!

12

Saturday, August 2

Today we went to explore Pompeii! The bus ride was long, but many of us got extra sleep along the way. We met our guides outside the gates and they helped us to find some free restrooms to use. We split into two groups and enjoyed a guided tour of Pompeii.

Our guide was Marianella and she was so funny. She knew a lot about Pompeii and wove in many sassy remarks along with a few "Mama Mia"s.

Some highlights from our tour included seeing Mount Vesuvius, seeing a number of the houses that are preserved, and walking through an ancient bakery.

We ate lunch at a nearby hotel and enjoyed salad, French fries, pizza, pasta, and calamari. We finished off the meal with some yummy ice cream! The best part was the air conditioned room we got to sit in!

After a 2 hour bus ride we finally arrived in Anzio! Everyone split off to find dinner, and most tried to find hamburgers to get a break from pizza and pasta. My group walked to the coast and ate at a Smash Burger. The people working at the restaurant wanted to take a picture with us because we were American!

We discovered that the people in Anzio have a lot of respect for Americans because American troops came in to help them out during WWII. Nate and Tanner were able to find a cool museum with a section dedicated to American troops.

The parade was a blast! The streets were full of people. We walked in our clogging shoes and ended with achy feet and full hearts. We performed in a lovely square close to the ocean. The performance went quite well and so many people wanted to take pictures with us! One older lady grabbed my face and said "bellissimo" which was so sweet. Another lady took Lizzie and Alex to her mom who was quite old and the sweet old lady grabbed our hands and talked to us in Italian. We couldn't understand much, but she did say bravissimo a lot. There was a dance party in the square and the Ecuadorians let us borrow their bottles and we danced together with bottles on our heads. All in all it was a great day!





B

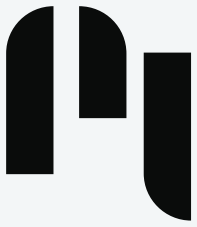
Sunday, August 3

This morning, we attended Mass in Cori with all the other groups in costume. Christian Devey represented the U.S. by doing the first reading over the pulpit! All the other groups were assigned a musical number (we were not) but we still sang Irish Blessing after the service concluded. It was a beautiful experience to learn how others worship Christ and to also participate in worshipping with them. After Mass, the mayor of Cori greeted us and we took a photo with him.

In the evening, we did a parade and short performance in Cori! This was our first time performing in the city that's our home base. It was fun to perform and interact with the people we have been around for a few weeks!

For our short performance, we did the last bit of Appalachian Patchwork into Virginia Reel. A lot of hiccups happened during this show, but it was memorable and the audience loved it!





Monday,
August 4



This morning we learned about olive oil and how it is graded by a professional. The teacher taught us how olive oil is rated and a little of how to tell if it is high quality by letting us smell and then taste different samples of olive oil.

After a free afternoon we drove to Sabaudia, stopping for a two-course meal in Pontinia. The parade - filled with excited spectators and adorable kids - was incredible. Shortly after, we performed on a beautiful stage for a tightly packed audience. The show was beautiful and high-energy and overall a wonderful experience.



Walking back from the stage tonight in Sabaudia, a group of us were stopped by a woman who said she was born in Texas! She had to take a picture with us and was so happy to see Americans/Cowboys. She said that when we came to the end of the parade where she was, she cried seeing the flag. She misses America. She said she still has her flag at home and is proud of us for taking such good care of it. Then we took photos with her family and explained our flag to them, gave them "American Souvenirs", and laughed.





Sav Savage & Sam Devenport



Top left: Clara Smilanick & Dallin Lyon, Top Right: Cami Losik



Rome, Italy Temple

15

Tuesday, August 5

We had a free morning and afternoon to travel, shop, and rest. A group of us went to Rome to see some sights we had missed on our first sight seeing trip to Rome. Another group went to the Rome LDS temple to serve and walk around the temple grounds. Another group stayed back at the school to rest and make Chili, cornbread, and smores for a cultural food exchange.

The Rome temple has been a highlight for everyone who has been. There is so much symbolism in the temple design and even in the artwork in the visitors center. Groups took tours from the sister missionaries and learned so much about the living, resurrected Christus statue, the original 12 apostle statues inspired after the ones in Denmark, and the artwork/stained glass at the visitors center.

Once all the groups got back from their excursions, we watched Amy Jex give the BYU devotional address to students in summer term classes. It was inspiring. She shared her testimony of the Savior and invited everyone to trust in doing God's plan and consider giving up things that may distract us from His plan for us.

At night, we had a cultural exchange and performances in the town square of Cori. Anthony and Cami served the American food to those who bought tickets to the event and the dancers. We also got to experiment some of the food from the other groups. After the food, we performed a 30 minute show. We performed the show in the following order: the gathering, clogging duet, hoop dance, Charleston/Jive, Georgia railroad, fiddle in the band, musical interlude, dancing in the country, and finale. The show was awesome! Despite some falls on the slippery stage, we kept performing with tons of energy! It was a beautiful crowd and stage.



16

Wednesday,
August 6



We drove down to a city near Naples and hopped on speedboats to reach the island of Capri. Even though we wore sunscreen, most of us still ended up with pretty strong sunburns. The stunning views of the island made it all feel like something out of a movie!

Things got entertaining when Josh took the mic on the bus and turned the ride into a kissing survey. Here are some fun stats that came out of it:

- 10 people have kissed folk dancers in the past year.
- 14 people had kissed someone on the bus.
- The team's total was 162 kisses, topping Piero's 72 and Josh's 60.
- Stacey was the youngest for a first kiss (age 13).
- Piero holds the record for kissing people from the most different countries (including Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Honduras, Japan, South Korea, the US, Australia, Switzerland, and Peru).
- Jeanette has kissed 8, Stacey has kissed 30, and Bryce has the most in the last 365 days (7).

Back on the water, our boat also had a belly flop competition—Sam D took the win!



Today was our last show day at the Latium Festival! The festival did an amazing job presenting each group through a modern dance number performed by children in the area.

It was beautiful how each group performed to say their goodbyes. Especially the New Zealand group that performed the haika and invited members from the other groups to come up and perform it with them. Sam D. and Christian from our group went up to participate.

After our show, some people went to the dance party while others went home to sleep. Overall, it was a great learning experience getting to know each other and the other groups despite the challenges that we encountered with the festival!

Teary goodbyes with our Cori guides



Thursday,
August 7





Friday, August 8



We left around 8:30am to head to Ap-iro! Our drive was fairly uneventful, but we had so much stuff in the bus that we had to line the aisle with our luggage to distribute the weight. Once we got to Ap-iro, we unloaded our things and got settled in. The group was so happy that there were only about 12 people per room and that the bathrooms had locks and toilet seats! The bar for our accommodations was set quite low by Cori. In the afternoon, almost everyone left to check out the nearest gelato, which was delicious! At 6:15PM, we met in front of the school and walked to this super cool old chapel! There, we encouraged Stacey to give us an impromptu performance, which was fabulous. Then, we went to dinner, chilled for a while at the school, and met back up at 9:45PM. We lined up with the other groups and paraded to the town square. There were little kids lining the streets cheering for us, and it was so fun!! Each group had a walk in song to kick off the welcome party, and we performed a little dance. Then, a local folk band played awesome music, and we all danced until midnight!! We were dancing a little bit with the Turkish group, and it was so fun!! Definitely our vibe. We are all so excited for this festival!



Christian Devey

Top: Emily Hanson & Levi Hancock. Bottom: MS

9

Saturday, August 9

Opening night of the Apiro "Terranostra" festival! It was incredible. The stage was huge. Each country was represented with a flag flying in the sky behind. The opening ceremony included two representatives from each country walking through the crowds with a flag and then waving them on the stage together. The background music and recorded voiceover sounded beautiful. Even though none of us speak Italian, you could feel the Spirit speak joy and peace to the crowd about what was going to take place on the stage.



20

Sunday, August 10

First off, today we had a birthday!! It was Nate's birthday, so it was super fun!! Tour birthdays are so fun!! Now onto the day. This morning we got ready and went to the waterpark here in Apiro. At the waterpark we walked around and they played the national anthem and "Born in the USA" a couple of times. We then walked over to the little stage area, had a small dance party with ourselves, and then we were introduced. We did Texas/Calico/Square and showdown. We then had a dance party with the audience and it was AWESOME! We danced with all these little kids, locals, and some of the Turkish group. It was super fun. After that, we went to lunch and had some free time. Mountain Strings played a couple of songs on the street where they had some vendors set up for the festival. We then had a devotional that was led by Lizzie. We sang "I Will Walk with Jesus" and it was BEAUTIFUL! The Spirit was so strong. We also talked about drawing near to our Savior and tightening our grip with Him. We went to dinner and then it was time to load the bus for our show. The Tahiti group and us performed in a city called Agugliano which was about an hour away from Apiro. The stage was a little smaller than we expected and the floor was

made of the same thing bleachers are made of, but we made the best of it haha. We spaced in the grass which was a hill, but we got the job done! We got to do a 50 minute set today so we got to do most of our dances (The Gathering, Clogging Duet, Appalachian, Texas/Calico/Square, Traveler, Charleston, Lindy, Western Wildfire, and Showdown), as well as a couple of band numbers!! The show went fairly well (especially with the small stage)! We did have a couple of sick people today and Tyler got really sick in the middle of our set and had to go off stage during one of their numbers to throw up :((When we got back to our dorms, there was a doctor at the school to help our sickies). Following our set, Tahiti went and at the end of their set, we went on stage one last time. After the show, we passed our bandanas and got to interact with the audience. It was so fun hearing about their experiences and to see the joy that overcame them while they talked to us. We got on the bus after midnight (which is no surprise lol) and arrived back in Apiro safely! Overall, a great day!!

Top left: Bailey Tucker
Bottom left: Carly Wanlass

Right: Amy Nattress



This morning we spent rehearsing for our 60 min show. We had a few people who couldn't attend because they were sick so we re-blocked the show. We prayed for everyone that they could get better soon. After rehearsal, we had time to explore the town. Towards mid-evening, a small group of us went to an outreach with some of the local kids from the town. It was so much fun! We taught them some simple dances like Virginia Reel. The Columbian group helped us and we helped them play a game of duck duck goose. Children really are precious gifts that remind us of our divine heritage. Then, after our outreach, we got ready for our 60 minute show. Despite not having everyone there, we did great!

Bottom left: Emma Richardson, Bryce Barker, Cami Losik, Sam Devenport

Top left: Emily Hanson
Top right: Alex & Lizzie Beard



21

Monday,
August 11

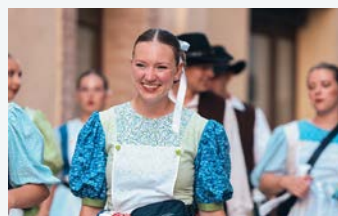




We had a free morning followed by time at the water park! In addition, today was Brielle's birthday, so some of us went to the store early in the morning to surprise her with baked goods, gifts and flowers. Before we headed to the water park, Mountain Strings had a jam session with an Italian band (Melembá) in the town square. Members of our team danced to the music and some of the Italians. It was such a sweet moment! After the jam session, we all got lunch and got ready to go to the waterpark! The waterpark required that everyone who got in the water had to wear a swim cap, so we took advantage of it and took some AWESOME pics. ;) The waterpark was the same one we paraded and performed at the other day. There were lots of fun slides, including one that went down the mountain! We had lots of fun swimming, laughing, and spending time with each other. After a full afternoon at the pool, we all got cleaned up and ate some dinner. Some went to get gelato after (as we do often). At the end of the night, most of us went to watch the show for that night since we weren't performing. It was Tahiti and Turkey's feature and we were very excited to see the Turks, because we are learning a Turkish dance for the next year and their group is full of incredibly talented dancers! Sadly, we've still got some team members down with illnesses, so we're praying for their quick recovery. Thankful for all of these opportunities! Can't wait to see what the final week of the tour has in store!

Tuesday,
August 12

22



People spent the morning preparing chili, smores, and cornbread for the general public to eat at a cultural exchange event in the town square of Apiro. At night, we left for the public square which was lit up with pretty lights and canopies with decorations for each country in attendance at the festival. Our canopy was in a nice secluded corner. Mountain strings played incredibly for two hours straight without breaks. The dancers taught people in the crowd a few line dances. After dancing with the locals, our tour guides and some of the dancers served American food to the locals. It looked delicious.

After the locals were fed, we paraded through the small buildings on the cobble stone streets. Then, we had a short animation/performance in the town square where the rest of the groups were. It was electric and so fun to see everyone perform!

Top left: Piero Gongora
Top right: Sierra Stahly
Bottom middle: Ellie Erickson
Bottom right: Shaun Hicken

Wednesday,
August 13





21

Thursday, August 14

Today was truly a legendary day. Aside from the slow morning and lagging out of bed because of heat exhaustion (or just regular exhaustion for the matter), we had the coolest opportunity to do a Turkish dance workshop with the Turkish group that is here!

From what I know— their director is now the head of the festival that IFDE was trying to go to in Turkey. They're all excellent and their group is #1 when it comes to Turkish dance— so it was an amazing opportunity to dance with some of the best. They taught us a portion of their "Black Sea" set.

To finish the night, we performed last at the closing ceremony for the festival. It was so sweet to close the ceremony with candles as we paraded around the audience in costume with the other groups. It reminded me that dance can open hearts and minds and can bring everyone together as one despite differing races and cultures. And to top everything off, the festival put on a huge firework show right behind the stage. We danced the night away with the other countries while watching the firework show!



Left: Carly Wanlass (top), Emily Hanson
Right: Sam Lindsay & Natalie Lund

25

Friday,
August 15

Today was our last day in Apiro! We started the morning playing music in the streets with the other performing groups. It was a bittersweet day as we paraded through Apiro for the last time, handing out shirts and gifts, and then saying goodbye to the other performing groups.

We also had a special mass at a local Catholic church because it was a national holiday in Italy. Mountain Strings played a beautiful rendition of "Come Thou Font of Every Blessing" into "Irish Blessing" which we joined in on. I could feel the Spirit testify of God's love for His children everywhere. We then paraded through the town one last time and performed square dance for a group of locals in the town square. We then performed at the town's piazza and were the last group to perform. We danced to "Western Wildfire". It was such a fun closing performance.

Saturday,
August 16

26

We woke up bright and early to load our buses. We sang "Irish Blessing" to our wonderful festival guides. We then took the bus ride to Rome airport. It was lovely seeing the countryside and small cities as we left Apiro. It became a full circle moment as we saw the same roads and towns we had seen when we first arrived in Rome.

Once we got to the airport, we quickly went through security and spent our per diem on food. A group of dancers and musicians got oreo flavored chocolate for the flight home! The 8 hour plane ride home didn't seem so long as we slept and watched our favorite movies on the plane. After a long travel day, we finally arrived back in SLC! We were so blessed to travel in safety and meet so many incredible people along the way. Thank you Italy and to all who made this trip possible!



Dallin Lyon at the Jam Session

itinerary

Latium Festival - Cori, Italy

Sunday, July 27

7:30 am	Breakfast
11:00 am	Meeting with directors
12:00 pm	Lunch
5:30 pm	Dinner at school
6:30 pm	Latina: leaving in costume, soundcheck
9:00 pm	Latina: parade
9:30 pm	Latina: performance

Monday, July 28

6:30 am	Breakfast
7:45 am	Partenza per Roma. Departure for Rome (in costume, bring only musical instruments No amplification; walk to the Colosseum. Bring a gift.
11:00 am	Roma - Colosseum: short animation (2-3 min) per group in alphabetical order; official group photo afterward.
2:30 pm	Lunch
7:30 pm	Dinner
9:30 pm	Welcome Party S. oliva

Tuesday, July 29

6:30 am	Breakfast
1:30 pm	Lunch
5:00 pm	Transfer to Cappella dell'annunziata: Transfer to Cappella dell'Annunziata (instruments by car, musicians on foot).
6:30 pm	Start of the mini concert of 10/15 minutes
10:00 pm	Dinner

Wednesday, July 30

7:30 am	Breakfast
10:00 am	Bus transfer to RSA: USA Animation
12:30 pm	Lunch
4:30 pm	Departure for Tivoli in costume
6:00 pm	Visit and short animation at Villa D'Este (2-3 min). Then walk to Santuario di ercole vincitore for the performance.
9:00 pm	Show in Tivoli. All the details will be communicated by the guides. After each performance, one pair remains for greetings, the rest of the group return to Cori. Dinner at school.

Thursday, July 31

7:30 am	Breakfast
10:00 am	All groups walk to S. Oliva for the conference.
12:30 pm	Lunch
5:30 pm	Dinner
6:30 pm	Anzio: departure in costume. Details will be communicated by the guides. Bring sign and flag.
7:30 pm	Segni: partenza in costume puntuali. All'arrivo sfilata, soundcheck e spettacolo.
9:30 pm	Show starts in Anzio.

Friday, August 1

7:30 am	Breakfast
1:00 pm	Lunch
6:00 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Cisterna: departure in costume. Parade in the city center. Soundcheck.
9:30 pm	Performance Cisterna. Details will be communicated by the guides.

Saturday, August 2

7:30 am	Breakfast
12:30 pm	Lunch (Free day)
12:00 am	Dopofestival: Piazzale S.Francesco (Party)

In the morning, animated Holy Mass by the groups.

Lunch with the host families in Cori. In the afternoon/evening: International Folklore Parade in Cori. *Bring sign and flag.

Sunday, August 3

7:30 am	Breakfast
10:00 am	Walk to S.Maria (in costume). Mass starts at 10:30.
12:00 pm	Lunch with local families (further details will be given by the guides). Mandatory return at 5:00pm to prepare for evening activities.
5:00 pm	Mandatory return.
6:30 pm	Dinner
10:00 pm	Bus transfer to Piazza Signina
9:00 pm	Parade begins
12:00 am	Dopofestival: Piazza Signina (Party)

Monday, August 4

7:30 am	Breakfast
1:30 pm	Lunch
4:45 pm	Sabaudia: departure in costume. Dinner (in Pontinia). On arrival, parade and performance.
9:30 pm	Performance in Sabaudia. All the details will be communicated by the guides.

Traditional dish preparation for Benin, Messico e USA.

In the evening, Folkloriada Mediterranea for Benin, Messico e USA.

Tuesday, August 5

7:30 am	Breakfast
1:30 pm	Dinner
4:45 pm	Guides and selected members of each group will go to their respective kitchens according to the schedule that will be provided.
9:30 pm	Soundcheck: transfer of musical instrument to Piazza della Croce.
5:30 pm	Dinner
8:15 pm	Bus transfer to Piazza della Croce.
9:30 pm	Show begins (details from guides).

Wednesday, August 6

7:30 am	Breakfast
1:30 pm	Lunch (Free day)
6:30 pm	Dinner

Free morning. In the evening, official closing show of Latium festival.

Thursday, August 7

7:30 am	Breakfast
1:30 pm	Lunch
TBA	Soundcheck: transfer of instruments to Piazza della croce.
6:30 pm	Dinner
8:45 pm	Bus transfer to Piazza della Croce.
9:30 pm	Show begins (details from guides).
12:00 am	Dopo Festival: Piazza Sant'Oliva (Party)

TerraNostra Festival - Apiro, Italy

Friday, August 8

7:00 am	Breakfast
7:30 am	Load up the buses, 4 hour drive to Apiro
TBD	Lunch - in Apiro
TBD	Dinner
9:45 pm	Welcome Party

Saturday, August 9

8:00 am	Breakfast
10:00 am	Musician Sound Check at the stage
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:45 pm	Practice in the gym
3:00 pm	Jeanette, Brielle, Christian to the stage for flag bearer rehearsal and choreography. No costumes required.
6:00 pm	Dinner
8:45 pm	All groups in costume for show (8 min set)
9:00 pm	Show

Sunday, August 10

8:00 am	Breakfast
11:00 am	Load bus in costume outside of school for the Waterpark performance. Short parade and then a 10-15 min performance.
TBD	Lunch after waterpark performance Post Lunch devotional

6:00 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Leave with the bus for Agugliano (1 hr drive)
TBD	Showtime - 50 min set

Monday, August 11

8:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am	Blocking on stage and rehearse "Come Thou Fount" song + Irish Blessing for mass
12:30 pm	Lunch
5:00 pm	Band soundcheck
5:30 pm	"Terranostra in gioco" outreach with Colombia
6:30 pm	Dinner
8:45 pm	Meet outside school to walk to stage
9:30 pm	60 min show split into two parts of 30 min each

Tuesday, August 12

8:00 am	Breakfast
11:30 am	Jam Session in the square with Melemba.
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:40 pm	Meet to depart for waterpark
6:00 pm	Bus back to school
7:00 pm	Dinner
9:30 pm	Turkey and Tahiti performance DJ and Dancing after the show

Wednesday, August 13

8:00 am	Breakfast
10:00 am	Booth decoration
11:00 am	Cantina Meal cooking
12:30 pm	Lunch
6:00 pm	Dinner delivered to the school
6:45 pm	Head to square in costume
7:00 pm	Entertainment in square
8:00 pm	Tasting Boxes opening
8:40 pm	All groups distribute traditional dishes
9:40 pm	3 min performance in Piazza Baldini
TBD	Parade through Porta Cavour, Piazzale Schiavetti, and Viale Trieste

Thursday, August 14

8:00 am	Breakfast
11:00 am	Exchange with the Turkish group in the gym
12:30 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm	Rehearsal for closing ceremony
5:00 pm	Band sound check
6:30 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm	Group photoshoot
8:50 pm	Head backstage
9:00 pm	Closing Ceremony - two 12-min performances

Friday, August 15

6:00 am	Band picked up a dorm for music photoshoot
8:00 am	Breakfast
11:00 am	Jam session with all musicians of the groups at bar
1:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm	Video interviews with Josh
4:30 pm	Meeting in costume for mass
5:00 pm	Mass - Lizzie will read a prayer, Band will do "Come Thou Fount / Irish Blessing" with dancers singing
6:30 pm	Parade with 3 stops: in front of the hospital for elderly (2 min), Bar nua (2 min), last stop under the stage to watch the children of Urbanitas group dance
7:30 pm	Dinner
8:45 pm	Backstage in costume
9:00 pm	Interview, gift exchange, little 3 min exhibition Pack, shower, sleep!

Saturday, August 16

6:30 am	Everyone up, ready with bags to load bus
11:00 am	Arrive in Rome Airport and check-in Lunch per diem after security
2:30 pm	Depart Delta flight for Atlanta (8.5-9 hr flight)
7:00 pm	Arrive in Atlanta
10:25 pm	Depart Atlanta for SLC
12:01 am	Aug 17 arrive at airport - costumes
12:20 am	Bus bac to campus at the RB

FOUR SHOWCASE

APPALACHIAN

The Gathering

Depicting the waves of immigration to the US and gathering in the Appalachian Mountains as they settle together in a new place. This piece showcases a sample of the various percussive influences that shaped the roots of American clogging style. This choreography includes samples of Welsh clog dancing, English Lancashire clog dancing; the Irish Sean-Nos solo dances; the French-Canadian Quebecoise step dances, and Appalachian flat footing—culminating with a traditional American Virginia Reel.

Choreography: Jeanette Geslison & students
Music: “Hard Times Come Again No More,” “Harvest Home,” “The Garden Jig,” and “Angus Campbell” (traditional), performed by Mountain Strings
Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

Clogging Duet

Showcasing clogging style in partner work as seen in current competitions, utilizing square dance partner figures.

Choreography: Nate Cox & Bailey Tucker
Music: “Sally Ann” (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings
Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison
Dancers: Nate Cox & Bailey Tucker

Hoop Dance

The Native American hoop dance highlights circular relationships or cycles of life. Dancers use hoops to tell the story of life through the eyes of an eagle. The hoops represent the many plants and animals that an eagle would see throughout its life, and, most importantly, they show how these living creatures harmoniously work together to perpetuate the renewal of life—the end of one life leads to the beginning of a new life.

Choreography: Cami Losik
Music: “Power to my People” (Northern Cree), recorded by Northern Cree
Soloist: Cami Losik (Tulalip Tribe)

Appalachian Patchwork

The traditional Kentucky Running Set and Big Set of the Appalachian Mountains were first recorded by ethnographer Cecil Sharp in the 1910’s. The locals would describe the dance as “to run a set.” This dance style is characterized by set dances, involving two or more couples, four couples to a square, and big set (ring) dances. This medley culminates with hambone, an Appalachian body percussion, involving stomping, slapping, and patting of the arms, legs, and chest. The roots of Appalachian dance are varied and include influence of English, Scottish, French, African American, and Native American dances.

Choreography: Edwin G. Austin Jr.
Music: “Sawin’ on the Strings” (Lewis Compton); “Boil ‘em Cabbage Down” (traditional); “Old Joe Clark” (traditional); and “Cripple Creek” (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings
Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

Georgia Railroad

Featuring the Appalachian flat footing percussive dance style.

Choreography: Ellie Geslison & Arthur Prusso
Music: “Georgia Railroad” (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings
Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison
Soloists: Ellie Geslison & Arthur Prusso

WESTERN TRADITIONS

Texas Fandango

Texas Fandango reminds us of a time when men spent months away from family and loved ones, as they worked in the wild frontiers of the American West. Underneath a starlit sky, and in the privacy of their campfire, this theatrical characterization of the American Cowboy shows him at his dancin’ best—stirrin’ up a little dust.

Choreography: Delynn Peay

Music: "Home on the Range" (traditional); "8th of January" (traditional); "Soldier's Joy" (traditional); "Clinch Mountain Backstep" (Ralph and Carter Stanley); performed by Mountain Strings
Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

Calico Darlin'

The girls take their turn to show off their skills and celebrate the joy of life in this "western" style dance.

Choreography: Michael Romney
Music: "Buffalo Gals" (Traditional); "The Fox" (Traditional); performed by Mountain Strings
Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

Exhibition Square

Traditional American square dance represents roots from English and French quadrilles. The addition of the dance "caller" makes American square dance unique from its predecessors. This dance form has served as an integral part of social life, especially in rural communities, since the foundation of the American nation.

Choreography: Mary Bee Jensen
Music: "Red Wing" (traditional); "Turkey in the Straw" (traditional); "Jessie Polka" (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings
Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

Traveler

As settlers on the American frontier, our ancestors believed in working hard and playing hard. This rendition of a turn-of-the-century celebration displays the enthusiasm and freedom that helped build the character of the United States of America.

Choreography: Jeanette Geslison
Music: "Arkansas Traveler" (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings
Musical Arrangement: Dean Marshall

Cuckoo's Nest transition

MUSIC: "Cuckoo's Nest" (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings

Western Wildfire

A precision style dance featuring both traditional American clogging and the latest power tap steps.

Choreography: Greg & Maria Tucker
Music: "Cluck Old Hen" (traditional); "Cuckoo's Nest" (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings
Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

Will the Circle Be Unbroken

Music: "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" (Charles H. Gariel with lyrics by Ada R. Haberson); performed by Mountain Strings

Fiddle in the Band

This spirited piece captures the essence of Texas through the seamless blend of country-western swing dance and traditional western line dancing. Rooted in the rich heritage of American cowboy culture, western swing dancing emerged during the Great Depression era, fusing musical influences from country, blues, jazz, and swing. Today, it thrives in dance clubs as an improvisational couple dance form. Western line dancing, a vibrant social tradition, draws inspiration from iconic styles like the cowboy cha-cha, two-step, vine, and polka. While honoring its classic roots, this piece embraces modern elements, reflecting the evolving nature of country-western dance today.

Choreography: Spencer Waddell, Tana Bybee
Music: "Fiddle in the Band" (Kane Brown); performed by Mountain Strings

Urban Dance Halls

Julie in Rome

Music: "Julie in Rome" (Jared Ferrin); performed by Mountain Strings

Attache Ta Tuque!

Using a variety of styles of step dancing from our neighbors in Eastern Canada (Ottawa Valley, Cape Breton and Quebecois styles), this is a lively fusion of historical and contemporary music and dance expressions reveling in complexity and playfulness. These percussive styles intermix with and have influenced traditional American clogging.

Choreography: Gary Larsen
Music: "Shoot the Moon" (Ten Strings and a Goat Skin); performed by Mountain Strings

Minor Swing transition

Music: "Minor Swing" (Django Reinhardt); performed by Mountain Strings

The Breakaway-Bug/Charleston

This Charleston-style tap dance harkens back to the Jazz Age.

Choreography: Jacob Madsen

Music: "Ain't She Sweet" (Milton Ager & Jack Yellen/public domain); performed by Mountain Strings

Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

Soloists: Dallin Lyon & Clara Smilanick or Shaun Hicken & Carly Wanlass

Jump Jive an' Wail

The Lindy Hop combines jazz, tap, breakaway, and Charleston dance styles. Originating in Harlem, New York, in the 1920's, it crossed racial boundaries as both Black and White dancers came together in the integrated Savoy Ballroom. The dance was named after Charles Lindbergh, the famous American aviator who "hopped" across the Atlantic. Dancers build upon a basic swing step and improvise as they solo and partner freely. Get ready for some fast-paced fun with flips spins, and of course, hops.

Choreography: Elaine Grenko

Music: "Jump, Jive, an' Wail" (Louis Prima); performed by Mountain Strings

Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

Finale

Fox on the Run

MUSIC: "Fox on the Run" (Brian Connolly, Steve Priest, Andy Scott, and Mick Tucker); performed by Mountain Strings

Dancin' in the Country

Showcasing the current Power Tap style of American clogging mixed with traditional figures and footwork, this dance ends with a celebration of the fun that clogging brings.

Choreography: Greg & Maria Tucker

MUSIC: "Dancin' in the Country" (Tyler Hubbard); "Blues Berry Hill" (Nitty Gritty Dirt Band); "Cuckoos Nest" (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings

Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

Showdown

A friendly contest between dancers and partners to show their skills and tricks.

Choreography: Greg & Maria Tucker

Music: "Salt Creek" (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings

Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison



Apiro, Italy

DANGERS



Bryce Barker
Exercise and Wellness
Appleton, WI



Alex Beard
Accounting
Sedalia, MO



Lizzie Beard
Psychology
Tooele, UT



Tanner Birtcher
Molecular Biology
Wheaton, IL



Tyson Boxer
Mathematics Education
Manassas, VA



Brielle Comp
Accounting
Mesa, AZ



Nate Cox
Actuarial Science
American Fork, UT



Samuel Devenport
International Relations
Payson, UT



Christian Devey
Mechanical Engineering
Orem, UT



Cael Erickson
Applied/Computational Math
Spanish Fork, UT



Ellie Erickson
Accounting
Holladay, UT



Piero Gongora
Finance
Chimbote, Peru



Levi Hancock

Physics
Fairborn, OH



Emily Hanson

Marketing
Hughson, CA



Amy Hawkes

Communication Disorders
LaGrange, GA



Shaun Hicken

Marketing
Pleasant Valley, UT



Samuel Lindsay

Communication Disorders
Sandy, UT



Cami Losik

Psychology
Layton, UT



Natalie Lund

Product & User Experience Design
Provo, UT



Dallin Lyon

Music Dance Theatre
Firestone, CO



Amy Nattress

Exercise and Wellness
Sandy, UT



Emma V. Richardson

Public Relations
Kaysville, UT



Savannah Savage

Experience Design & Management
Draper, UT



Clara Smilanick

Social Science Teaching
Roseville, CA



Sierra Stahly

Dance
Overland Park, KS



Bailey Tucker

Human Development
Orem, UT



Carly Wanlass

Elementary Education
Lehi, UT



Anthony Xanthos

Exercise Science
Beaverton, OR

MUSICIANS



Tyler Anderson
Construction Management
Roseburg, OR



Madeline Charles
Advertising
Lehi, UT



Jared Ferrin
String Performance
Worcester, MA



Ellie Geslison
Sociology
Provo, UT



Arthur Prusso
Dance BA
Holladay, UT



Emily Wall
Bioinformatics
Gainsville, VA

