



BYU INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

# Christmas \* Around \* the World

GATHERING PLACES

WITH BYU MOUNTAIN STRINGS • BYU SCOTTISH HIGHLAND DANCE CLUB WITH WASATCH & DISTRICT PIPE BAND  
HARP IRISH DANCE COMPANY • SHELLEY SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE

DECEMBER 5-6 • BYU MARRIOTT CENTER

BYU  
ONSTAGE

# Gathering Places

Welcome to BYU's annual *Christmas Around the World* concert, where students honor and celebrate cultures from throughout the world with traditional dance and music.

This concert highlights some of the places in which we gather to celebrate Christmas around the globe, such as churches, town squares, and our own homes. Another special place we think of and honor at this time of year is the stable in Bethlehem where the Christ child was born.

Growing up in Denmark, we would go to our church every December 24 for a special Christmas service where we would sing Christmas hymns and read from the book of Luke. Afterward, we would come home with the family for the Christmas Eve celebrations. It was a very special day, when the warmth of lights on the Christmas tree, on tables, and in windowsills; the specially prepared Christmas foods; and family gatherings filled us with excitement. I know that each one of us has special memories associated with places where we gather with loved ones during this season.

One of the most exciting things about preparing for this concert is welcoming collaborations with guest artists and friends of our program. This year, the students and faculty worked with choreographer Tym Jaddock to set and premiere two new Ukrainian dance pieces: Kupala and Arkan. Michael Malich and Aleksandra Dostanič set our Serbian piece, and Ahmet Lüleci restaged two Turkish dance pieces from Artvin and the Black Sea in Turkey. We also welcomed recent alumni Jillian Iverson as she set a clogging piece, and Efrain Villalobos set a Mexican piece. Our current student Piero Gongora choreographed a new Colombian Cumbia piece. It is inspiring to learn directly from these accomplished dancers, teachers, and choreographers.

I welcome folk dance alumni and longtime friends of our program as guests in this year's concert: the Shelley School of Irish Dance, directed by Tina Shelley, and Harp Irish Dance Company, directed by Aubree Shelley. We honor and celebrate Tina and Aubree's lifelong work and passion as they have built their certified Irish dance programs in the community, sharing their talents and skills while inspiring future generations. I likewise welcome the BYU Scottish Highland Dance Club to the stage, led by graduate student Emmelene Hovey.

It is my hope that each of you will take something away from this concert that will inspire you this Christmas season.



Jeanette Geslison, Artistic Director







## PROGRAM

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**OPENER: GATHERING AT THE CHURCH** ..... Full Cast

**Choreography:** Jeanette Geslison **Music:** "Joy to the World," lyrics by Isaac Watts, music by George F. Handel; "Still, Still, Still" traditional, performed by Mountain Strings **Musical Arrangement:** Mark Geslison



**HUNGARY: SZATMÁRI FRISS CSÁRDÁS** ..... International Folk Dance Ensemble,  
Tier II Ensemble, and 11:00 Ensemble

*This fast-tempo couple dance derives from the region of Szatmár in northeastern Hungary. It is characterized by a lifted movement quality iconic of this area. The Friss Csárdás is practiced in an improvised manner as a living tradition where couples are seen whirling and men's fast rhythmic slapping is prevalent.*

**Choreography:** Jeanette Geslison **Music:** "Friss Csárdás," traditional, recorded by Dűvő



**LITHUANIA: MALUNAS DIDYSIS** ..... 10:00 Ensemble

*The Grand Mill brings attention to the process of grinding flour for the making of bread! This version of Malunas portrays the arrival of the carts full of grain, the sifting, and then grinding of the grain into flour through the use of gears, turbines, belts, and grindstones until the flour is ready.*

**Choreography:** Traditional **Staged By:** Emilee Wright **Music:** Traditional recording with additional accompaniment by Mountain Strings



**SERBIA: DILMANO, DILBERO** ..... International Folk Dance Ensemble

*This suite of dances represents the traditions of Dimitrovgrad, located in the Šop region of eastern Serbia. The suite comprises nine traditional dances: R'čenica, Dilmano Dilbero, Klecka, Bera, Čičovoto Dete, Jove Malaj Mome, Čačak, Na Dva Tanca, and Za Pojas.*

**Choreography:** Milorad Runjo **Restaging:** Michael Malich **Music:** Traditional, recorded by Darko Ćitić



**WALES: CROESO I GYMRU** ..... 2:00 Ensemble

*Cam i mewn i Gymru, or "Welcome to Wales," provides a glimpse into the music and dance of the Welsh people. After almost 200 years of condemnation by nonconformist ministers, dancing almost vanished from Wales. Today it once again enjoys an enthusiastic following. This suite features "Ffaniglen," "Hoffedd ap Hywel," and "Step y Glocsen."*

**Staged by:** Kierica McPherson in consultation with Edwin G. Austin, Jr. **Music:** Traditional, performed by Mountain Strings **Musical Arrangement:** Mark Geslison

## PROGRAM

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### **SCOTLAND: ROYAL HIGHLAND BROADSWORD** . . . . . BYU Scottish Highland Dance Club

*Originating in Scotland in the 12th century, Highland dance is rooted in Scottish military culture. Historically, clan chiefs and kings used Highland dance to select their strongest soldiers, develop discipline in their troops, and showcase endurance and agility. Soldiers were also known to dance over their crossed swords before battle or in triumph after victory. Today, this cornerstone of Scottish culture continues to drive the human body and spirit, pushing dancers beyond what they ever believed to be possible.*

**Choreography:** Emmelene Hovey **Dancers:** Gillian Booth, Betheny Hovey, Emmelene Hovey, Aja Jensen, Liv Jensen, Erica Stewart, Kayla Wong, Leila Wong **Music:** "The Opener" by Ross Morrill, "Highland Harry" by Ludwig van Beethoven, "Orange and Blue" by Neil Gow, "The Panda Jig" by Gordon Duncan, and "Coppermill Studio Jig" by Bruce Gandy, performed by members of the Wasatch & District Pipe Band



### **CANADA: ATTACHE TES BOTTINES** . . . . . International Folk Dance Ensemble

*This lively Québécoise celebration of music and dance comes alive with the song "Sur la Grande Côte," which demonstrates the playful call-and-answer tradition.*

**Choreography:** Martin Langlais **Soloist Dancer:** Adam Jewell **Soloist Singer:** Carson Petrie **Music:** "Sur la Grande Côte" by La Bottine Souriante, performed by Mountain Strings



### **IRELAND: YULETIDE MEDLEY** . . . . . Shelley School of Irish Dance, Harp Irish Dance Company, and International Folk Dance Ensemble

*This piece is a collaboration of local competitive, certified Irish dance schools (Shelley School and Harp Company) and BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble. Depicting a lyrical slip jig, then a yuletide treble jig, followed by a powerful double reel in the tradition of Irish dance hard shoe, the piece will be an exciting jewel to this year's Christmas Around the World!*

**Choreography:** Tina Shelley ADCRG (Shelley School) in collaboration with Aubree Shelley (Harp Company) and Kierica McPherson **Music:** "Eye of the Storm" by Sean Softley, "Greensleeves" by Celtic Woman, "Deep Blue" by Imar, performed by Mountain Strings **Musical Arrangement:** Mark Geslison



### **MEXICO: JALISCO MADRUGADA** . . . . . Tier II Ensemble

*La Madrugada, "The Dawn," is a song that symbolizes the awakening and yearning of a new relationship. The lyrics describe the longing and anticipation of being with a loved one. The song is also about how love connects humans to nature and spiritual cycles as the Lucero, "morning star," leads the charro to find his beloved in the morning. The excitement of Jalisco dance and its natural coquettish styling will reveal if the charro finds his woman at the end of the piece.*

**Choreography:** Efrain Villalobos **Music:** "La Madrugada," traditional, recorded by Mariachi Cobre



## PROGRAM

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**INDIA: GHAR WAAPASI** ..... International Folk Dance Ensemble

*Bollywood is a film industry based in Mumbai, India, and is 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" by Sanjay Leela Bhansali with lyrics by Prashant Ingole, recorded by Vishal Dadlani; "Laal Ghagra" by Tanishk Bagchi, Manj Musik, and Herbie Sahara with lyrics by Tanishk Bagchi and Herbie Sahara, recorded by Manj Musik, Herbie Shara, and Neha Kakkar.

**Soloists:** Shaun Hicken and Bailey Tucker with Amy Nattress, Carly Wanlass, and Savannah Savage

## — INTERMISSION —



**UKRAINE: KUPALA** ..... International Folk Dance Ensemble

*The celebration of Ivana Kupala is a summer solstice pagan tradition where female dancers are ready to find a suitor. They dance Khorovod dances, and couples will leap over the fires and bathe in the river. The young women traditionally floated the wreaths they made down the river while the young men waited downstream to retrieve the wreaths from the water to capture a woman's interest.*

**Choreography:** Timothy Jaddock **Soloists:** Anthony Xanthos and Emily Hanson **Costume Concept & Design:** Timothy Jaddock **Costume Design & Construction:** Lesya Blishch **Music:** Traditional (Yevhen Dosenka Ivanovych)



**UKRAINE: ARKAN** ..... Tier II Ensemble

*Arkan is a traditional men's circle dance of the Hutsul people, an ethnographic community from Ukraine's Carpathian Mountains. Performed shoulder to shoulder around a bonfire, the dance features powerful, rhythmic footwork driven by a lively 2/4 beat. Accompanied by the trembita (alpine horn), sopilka (flute), and drum, Arkan embodies unity, strength, and the enduring spirit of the Ukrainian people.*

**Choreography:** Timothy Jaddock **Costume Jacket Design & Construction:** Lesya Blishch **Music:** Traditional, recorded by the Ukrainian Cheremosh Society



## PROGRAM

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### **CHINA: MO LI HUA** ..... International Folk Dance Ensemble

*Mo Li Hua, meaning "Jasmine," is also a famous Chinese folk song. The flower, though not particularly beautiful, gives off a fragrance that gladdens the heart and refreshes the mind—symbolizing internal beauty and humility.*

**Choreography:** Jiamin Huang **Music:** "Mo Li Hua," traditional, recorded by Beijing Angelic Choir



### **COLOMBIA: LA POLLERA COLORÁ** ..... 11:00 Ensemble

*Originating on Colombia's Caribbean coast, Cumbia blends African drums, Indigenous flutes, and Spanish melodies into a vibrant celebration of culture. Its graceful movements and rhythmic beats reflect the harmony and spirit of the Colombian people.*

**Choreography:** Piero Gongora **Music:** Juan Madera Castro, lyrics by Wilson Choperena, recorded by Alberto Barros



### **TURKEY: ARTVIN DANSLARI** ..... Tier II Ensemble

*"Dances of Artvin" show the close connection between the present culture of Anatolia and an ancient culture of central Asia. The medley contains vignettes from 6 different dances in Horon and Bar styles.*

**Choreography:** Ahmet Luleci **Music:** Artvin Medley, recorded by Ensemble Ankara



### **TURKEY: TIDES OF ANATOLIA** ..... International Folk Dance Ensemble

*This piece showcases a modern blend of traditional women's and men's dancing originating in the area of Trabzon, a fishing center on the Black Sea. The movements celebrate life familiar to this community, such as the motion of the sea, the handling of nets, and the twisting of caught fish.*

**Choreography:** Ahmet Luleci **Music:** "Heyamo," "Black Sea Medley," traditional, recorded by Birol Topaloğlu



### **USA: A SMOKY MOUNTAIN BREAKDOWN** ..... 10:00 Ensemble & 2:00 Ensemble

*One evening after dark, with the moon casting its mysterious light over the proceedings, the air seems to pulsate with the stamping and clapping of folks dancing with breakneck speed at the frolic. Banjo and fiddle—singing, flatfooting, and the rhythm of the "patters" all combine in this celebration of the Appalachian Running Set and Big Set.*

**Choreography:** Edwin G. Austin, Jr. **Restaging:** Emilee Wright and Kierica McPherson **Music:** "There Ain't No Bugs on Me," traditional; "Lost Indian," traditional; "Cherokee Shuffle," traditional, performed by Mountain Strings **Musical Arrangement:** Mark Geslison



## PROGRAM

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### **USA: FREIGHT TRAIN** ..... International Folk Dance Ensemble

*A fusion of traditional line clogging and today's latest competition steps, this dance showcases the intricate rhythms and tangible energy of American clogging. Clogging originated in the Appalachian Mountains and was born from the blend of dance traditions brought by immigrants, African slaves, and Native Americans.*

**Choreography:** Jillian Iverson **Music:** "Freight Train" by Fred Eaglesmith, performed by Mountain Strings

**Musical Arrangement:** Mark Geslison and Mountain Strings



### **UKRAINE: CIGANOCKA** ..... Mountain Strings

*Ciganka refers to a young Romani girl who has attracted the attention of a young man. Romani refers to "gypsy" people who moved about in caravans in places such as Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic. We consider the song to be part of the "gypsy jazz" style, which is experiencing a renaissance in the 21st century with many Americans participating in the trend. It was a hot music style in Europe 100 years ago but seemed to disappear with the onset of World War II.*

**Music:** Traditional **Musical Arrangement:** Mark Geslison and Mountain Strings, based on the arrangement by Barcelona Gipsy Balkan Orchestra including Julien Chanal, Sandra Sangiao, Stelios Stogias, Mattia Schirosa, and Ivan Kovacevic

## — NATIVITY DEMONSTRATION —



### **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:** Kierica McPherson **Music:** "Joy to the World," Lyrics by Isaac Watts, music by George F. Handel, performed by Mountain Strings **Musical Arrangement:** Mark Geslison

**INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE 2026 PERFORMANCES**

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**LOCAL PERFORMANCES**

Jan. 29	Dance Performance Theatre, Provo, UT, 7:30 PM
Jan. 30	Dance Performance Theatre, Provo, UT, 7:30 PM
Jan. 31	Dance Performance Theatre, Provo, UT, 2:00 PM
Mar. 31	Winterfest, Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center, Taylorsville, UT, 7:00 PM
Apr. 1	Winterfest, Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center, Taylorsville, UT, 7:00 PM

**MIDSEMESTER TOUR: NORTHERN CALIFORNIA** *(Visit [pam.byu.edu](http://pam.byu.edu) for more information)*

Feb. 24	Reno, Nevada
Feb. 25	Modesto, California
Feb. 26	Stockton, California
Feb. 27	Oakland, California
Feb. 28	Sacramento, California

**INTERNATIONAL SUMMER TOUR**

June 27–July 17	Romania, Hungary, and Belgium
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**TRADITIONZ**

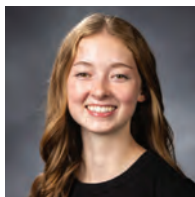
Traditionz is an outreach ensemble that performs in schools and community events in April/May. See our website, [byutraditionz.byu.edu](http://byutraditionz.byu.edu), for more information. Email us at [byu-traditionz@byu.edu](mailto:byu-traditionz@byu.edu) to book a performance.





## BYU INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

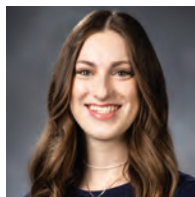
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**Megan Buxton**  
*Fort Collins, Colorado*  
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION\*



**Emma Call**  
*Davis, California*  
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT\*



**Abigail Erickson**  
*Klamath Falls, Oregon*  
HISTORY\*



**Ellie Geslison**  
*Provo, Utah*  
SOCIOLOGY\*



**Emily Hanson**  
*Hughson, California*  
MARKETING\*



**Emma Knight**  
*Katy, Texas*  
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING\*



**Cami Losik**  
*Layton, Utah*  
PSYCHOLOGY\*



**Natalie Lund**  
*Provo, Utah*  
INTERDISCIPLINARY DESIGN



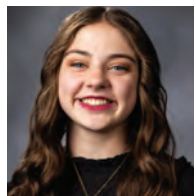
**Amy Nattress**  
*Sandy, Utah*  
EXERCISE AND WELLNESS\*



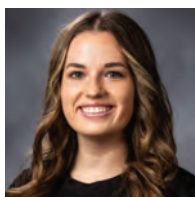
**Emma V. Richardson**  
*Kaysville, Utah*  
PUBLIC RELATIONS\*



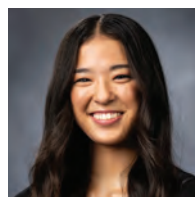
**Savannah Savage**  
*Draper, Utah*  
EXPERIENCE DESIGN &  
MANAGEMENT \*



**Bailey Tucker**  
*Orem, Utah*  
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT\*



**Carly Wanlass**  
*Lehi, Utah*  
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION\*

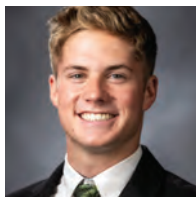


**Kayla Wong**  
*Henderson, Nevada*  
DANCE BA

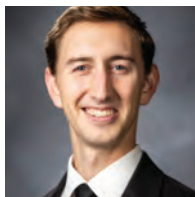
*\*Cultural Dance minors*

## BYU INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

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**Samuel Devenport**  
*Payson, Utah*  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



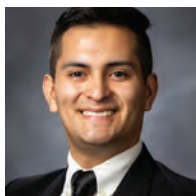
**Christian Devey**  
*Orem, Utah*  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING



**Cael Erickson**  
*Spanish Fork, UT*  
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING\*



**Grant Fletcher**  
*American Fork, Utah*  
SPANISH



**Piero Gongora**  
*Chimbote, Peru*  
PRE-BUSINESS



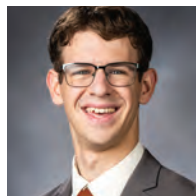
**Levi Hancock**  
*Dayton, Ohio*  
PHYSICS



**Preston Hancock**  
*Dayton, Ohio*  
APPLIED & COMPUTATIONAL  
MATHEMATICS



**Shaun Hicken**  
*Pleasant Valley, Utah*  
MARKETING



**Adam Jewell**  
*Ammon, Idaho*  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING



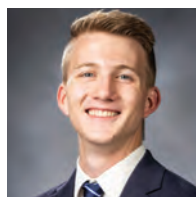
**Samuel Lindsay**  
*Sandy, Utah*  
COMMUNICATION  
DISORDERS



**Connor Phillips**  
*Provo, Utah*  
PRE-BUSINESS



**Isaac Pimentel**  
*Moscow, Idaho*  
NURSING\*



**Soren Stowell**  
*Charleston, Illinois*  
MUSIC EDUCATION\*



**Anthony Xanthos**  
*Beaverton, Oregon*  
EXERCISE SCIENCE

*\*Cultural Dance minors*

## ADDITIONAL DANCE ENSEMBLES

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### 10:00 ENSEMBLE

Kaleb Andelin  
Jacquelyn Bazinet  
Zach Bird  
Emma Brown  
William Butcher  
Sonya Clayton  
Jonathan Collyer  
Seth Denfeld  
Keira Grimshaw  
Samuel Heaton  
Mykenzie Holyoak  
Abbie Kirk  
Bailey Knabb  
Sarah Lisonbee  
Jonathan Loveridge  
Emily Madsen  
Ephraim Mangrum  
Ivin McDonald  
Daniela McKamey  
Daphne Morford  
Lilly Newsom  
Ethan Nord  
Boyd Robinson  
Ethan Schaub  
Caleb Sherman  
Seth Sherman  
Max Smith  
Sydney Smith  
Jamin Thompson  
Abby Woodbury  
Ady Wright  
Renee Young

**Director:**

*Emilee Wright*

**TAs:**

*Emma Knight  
Christian Devey*

### 11:00 ENSEMBLE

Hallie Allred  
Audrey Bendixsen  
Charlie Blodgett  
Alison Borman  
Cade Cannon  
Gabriel Charles  
Isaiah Cieslewicz  
Tyler Calton  
George Eppel  
Emily Foutz  
Barrett Gunn  
Amberlee Gutke  
Lindy Ham  
Andrew Harmon  
Liana Jankovich  
Aja Jensen  
Skyler Jones  
Micah Jones  
Tanner Meeks  
Ethan Meyer  
Claire Miles  
Liam Miller  
Ellie Nelson  
Naomi Ogden  
Zach Raehl  
Samuel Rogers  
Russell Scow  
Lily Schwebach  
Landon Shumway  
Connor Smith  
Rebekah Smith  
Grace Thomas  
Emily Winegar

**Director:**

*Amy Jex*

**TAs:**

*Piero Gongora  
Natalie Lund*

### 2:00 ENSEMBLE

Avery Black  
Ezra Bloomfield  
Julianne Biery  
Brynnlee Cloward  
Joshua Craft  
Aubrey Edvalson  
Dylan Eddington  
Lillian Foss  
Dallon Gunn  
Isaac Hardy  
Grace Hardisty  
Chase Hassell  
Gideon Cerant Hale  
Bethany Hanks  
Ashley Hilton  
Steven Johnson  
Ellie Joy Soulier  
Erik Lucas  
Hudson Maxfield  
Christopher McIntyre  
Britta Nielsen  
Samuel Olson  
Jacob Shefchik  
Millie Scholzen  
Adelina Solorzano  
Jett Rowley  
Zachary Leigh  
Mimi Hutchings  
Kennedy Call  
Emily Vistaunet  
Shelby Wanlass  
Chad Wagstaff

**Director:**

*Kierica McPherson*

**TAs:**

*Paul Morse  
Emily Hanson*

### TIER 2 ENSEMBLE

Sydney Balser  
Sophia Budge  
Vallie Bullow  
Madeline Card  
Bo Brundige  
Cory Clay  
Emily Christensen  
Selena Dutton  
Gabriel Fleming  
David Heap  
Bethany Hovey  
Will Isaacson  
Andrew Jex  
Devin Killian  
Nate Lehnhof  
Brendan Lewis  
Dallin Lucas  
Sydney Maxfield  
Paul Morse  
Emma Nilsson  
Sean Perry  
Devin Prestwich  
Arthur Prusso  
Lauren Preece  
Alison Robins  
Lauren Robinson  
Davin Sharp  
Sabey Smith  
Jessica Spencer Nelson  
Winters Stephens  
McKenna Tester  
Isa Villalobos

**Director:** *Amy Jex*

**Rehearsal Assistant:**

*Anthony Xanthos*



## MUSICIANS

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### MOUNTAIN STRINGS (BYU SCHOOL OF MUSIC)

Directed by Mark Geslison, Mountain Strings tours with the American Folk Dance Ensemble (also known as the International Folk Dance Ensemble) to international folk dance festivals in the summer. They most recently played with the dancers at the LATIUM Festival in Cori, Italy and the Terranostra Festival in Apiro, Italy. These festivals aim to safeguard and promote intangible cultural heritage through traditional dance and music.

#### Mark Geslison

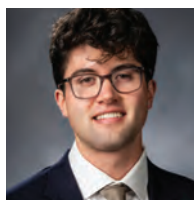
*BYU Mountain Strings  
Music Director*



**James Allen**  
*Roseburg, Oregon*  
BIOLOGY



**Tyler Anderson**  
*Roseburg, Oregon*  
CONSTRUCTION  
MANAGEMENT



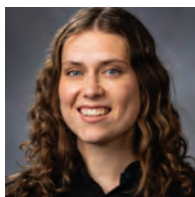
**Lawson Archibald**  
*Sydney, Australia*  
FINANCE



**Madeline Charles**  
*Lehi, Utah*  
TECHNOLOGY &  
ENGINEERING STUDIES



**Alexa Knaupp**  
*Forest Grove, Oregon*  
VIOLIN PERFORMANCE



**Elaina Marriott**  
*La Crescenta, California*  
ACCOUNTING



**Arthur Prusso**  
*Holladay, Utah*  
MUSIC BA

### GUEST MUSICIANS

Camryn Porter, flute  
Naomi Wall, flute  
Wasatch District Pipe Band

## GUEST DANCERS

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### BYU SCOTTISH HIGHLAND DANCE CLUB

*BYU's Scottish Highland Dancers (above) features eight women from Utah, Nevada, and Washington, each with extensive competition and performance experience. These trained Highland dancers have garnered top finishes at regional and national championships throughout the United States, while their performances include military tattoos stretching from Norfolk, Virginia, to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Belfast, Northern Ireland, and Edinburgh, Scotland. The BYU Scottish Highland Dancers include five returned missionaries and students majoring in a variety of disciplines, from dance to nursing and athletic training.*



### SHELLEY SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE

*The Shelley School of Irish Dance is the oldest certified Irish Dance School in the state of Utah. The director, Tina Shelley, is TCRG & ADCRG certified by the Irish Dance Commission of Dublin, Ireland. With two locations, in Cedar Hills and Orem, the Shelley School has the finest Irish Dance program, teaching beginners to championships. Students from the Shelley School compete on regional, national, and world levels and perform for delighted audiences across Utah. [www.shelleyirishdance.com](http://www.shelleyirishdance.com).*



### HARP IRISH DANCE COMPANY

*Harp Irish Dance Company (above), directed by BYU Folk Dance alumna and former Folk Dance Club President Aubree Walker Shelley, is celebrated for its artistry, precision, and infectious energy on stage. With classes offered in American Fork, Payson, and Saratoga Springs, Harp Irish Dance Company trains dancers in both traditional and modern Irish styles, combining strong technique with expressive storytelling. The company is known for fostering excellence, teamwork, and joy in performance—qualities that make every Harp dancer shine.*







## CULTURAL DANCE CHOREOGRAPHERS

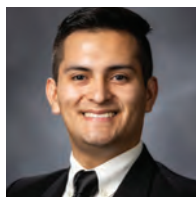
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Edwin G. Austin, Jr.



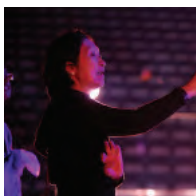
Jeanette Geslison



Piero Gongora



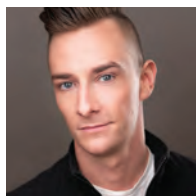
Emmelene Hovey



Jiamin Huang



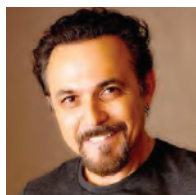
Jillian Iverson



Timothy Jaddock



Martin Langlais



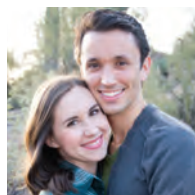
Ahmet Luleci



Michael Malich



Kierica McPherson



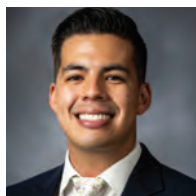
Greg and Sally  
Rawlings



Aubree Shelley



Tina Shelley



Efrain Villalobos



Colleen Nelson West

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

## DANCE DIRECTORS

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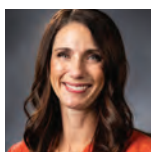
**Jeanette Geslison**

Artistic Director  
International Folk Dance Ensemble



**Amy Jex**

Director  
Tier II Ensemble, 11:00 Ensemble



**Emilee Wright**

Director  
10:00 Ensemble



**Kierica McPherson**

Director  
2:00 Ensemble  
Rehearsal Assistant  
International Folk Dance Ensemble

**Anthony Xanthos**

Rehearsal Assistant  
Tier II Ensemble

## PRODUCTION CREDITS

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**Artistic Director:** Jeanette Geslison

**Music Director, Mountain Strings:** Mark Geslison

**Script Writer:** Belle Frahm

**Production Manager/Scenic Designer:**

Benjamin Sanders

**Technical Director:** John Shurtleff

**Production Stage Manager:** Crysta May Lamb

**Lighting Designer:** Mark Ohran

**Projection Designer:** Erin Bjorn

**Sound Design & Recording:** Troy Sales

**Production Assistant:** Valeria Jenks

**Assistant Stage Managers:** Emily Jay, Olivia Jay,

Aniva Bjorn, Dallin Doxford

**Lightboard Operator:** Matthew Uppercamp

**Costume Shop Manager:** Dawn Maughan

**Folk Dance Costumers:** Amanda Alley (IFDE),

Mauri Staker

**Student Costumers:** Lauren Carroll, Rachel

Stoddard, Rachel Hunter, Reed Broschinsky

**Audio Engineer:** Gabriella Warnick

**Audio Assistant:** Justin Smalls

**Audio Operations:** Troy Streeter, Tiffany Parker

**Lighting Operations:** Mark Ohran, Mckenzie Wise

**Projections Operations:** Kevin Anthony

**Stage Operations:** Jared Patching

**Photography:** Jaren Wilkey, BYU Photo

**Marketing Services Manager:** Rex Kocherhans

**Creative Services Manager:** Marin McKay Barney

**Pre-Show Coordinators:** Amy Jex and Emilee Wright

**Childrens Matinee Pre-Show Coordinator:**

Greg Tucker

**Alumni Reception:** Jared Fugal

## COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

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### Dean

Diane Reich

### Associate Dean

Mark Callister

### Assistant Dean

Suzanne Campbell

### Director, Marketing

and Production

Troy Streeter

### Associate Dean

Shayla Bott

### Assistant Dean

Thaylene Rogers

### BRAVO! Producer

and Presenter

Lyndsay Keith

### Associate Dean

Eric Gillett

### Assistant Dean

Don Powell

## DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

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### Department Chair

Curt Holman,

*Department Chair*

Adam Dyer, Amy Jex

*Associate Chairs*

### Cultural Dance Faculty

*Full-Time:*

Jeanette Geslison

Amy Jex

*Adjunct:*

Tamara Chamberlain

Kaika Cole

Cynthia Gubler

Kellianne Hinkle

Wendi Isaacson

Ashley Jex

Becki Love

Kierica McPherson

Makeila Morgan

Tyler Persson

Channing Spotts

Chante Stutznegger

Filemoni Tiatia

Greg Tucker

Maria Tucker

Kau'i Tuia

Aileen Villalba

Emilee Wright

*Student Instructors:*

Ellie Geslison

Ben Lopez

Cami Losik

Paloma Castillo

### Dance Medicine and Wellness

Brenda Critchfield

Kyra Cox

Annie Christofferson



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

# — **BYU** — ONSTAGE



Scan the QR code above for

- Choreographers' bios
- Dramaturgy program notes
- Ukrainian costume proposal and Kupala concept
- Summer Dance Camp info
- 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 6th'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 by reading the archived *The Folk Dancer* club newsletters. Where in the world have the folk dancers toured? Read those past tour histories and 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. **byufolkdancealumni.com**