



The Folk Dancer



The Official Newsletter of the BYU Folk Dance Alumni

Fall 2022

Upcoming Events

World of Dance

- Sept. 15 @ 7:30pm
- Sept. 16 @ 7:30pm
- Sept. 17 @ 11 am and 2pm

Christmas Around the World

- Dec. 2-3

You can purchase tickets to both shows [here](#).

CAW Alumni Reception

- Dec. 3 from 4 - 6 PM
- In the Assembly Hall of the Gordon B. Hinckley Alumni Center



Announcements

- We need your help! If you were on the 2003, 2016, 2018, or 2020 teams, we could use your help to finish the histories! Please email gjrawlings@gmail.com to find out how to help.
- Ethan Sellers was awarded the alumni chapter replenishment grant for fall semester.

Summer Tour to Europe

By Hanna Gemperline Storheim, dancer

This summer, Brigham Young University's American Folk Dance Ensemble consisting of 25 dancers, 7 musicians, and 3 directors had the opportunity to travel abroad and interact with dancers and individuals at the following festivals and cultural exchange:



- July 8-15: Hello Schoten Festival, Belgium
- July 16-20: Cross-cultural Collaboration with Ansambl Vila, Novi Sad, Serbia
- July 21-24: Etnofest, Čačak, Serbia
- July 25-30: Ilinden Days Festival, Bitola, North Macedonia

*This is the first time the group has toured in Serbia and North Macedonia.

While we enjoyed performing along parade routes, in giant tents, and under the stars on outdoor stages, many of the highlights from our trip involved the relationships we built with those we met. In Belgium, we were blessed to stay with host families who so graciously opened their homes and hearts for us as we enjoyed our time dancing and sight-seeing at the Hello Schoten Festival. We also loved building friendships with dancers from India, Kenya, Turkey, Belgium and the Irish Trinity Ensemble from Chicago.

In Novi Sad, we had the privilege of collaborating with Ansambl Vila to produce an outdoor concert attended by nearly 1,000 people. For the finale of the performance, Ansambl Vila and BYU dancers joined together to perform Salty Dog Rag and a Serbian Kolo. Here, many friendships were formed. Following the performance, someone commented that the BYU American Folk Dance Ensemble "[had] done more good here tonight for the relations between America and Serbia than the American Embassy [had] done in the last 20 years."





Next, in Čačak, Serbia, we attended sacrament meeting in a small house where a man shared how our performance had prompted him to come back to church. He could see that the gospel had infused the dancers with energy and light and it was a testament to him that the gospel was true. Another evening we traveled to Belgrade for a special performance celebrating the 50th anniversary of the church in Serbia. The local members were thrilled to see so many members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in their country!

In North Macedonia we performed for nearly 4,000 people in various venues. On our last night, we sang Makedonsko Devojce, a traditional Macedonian folk song, and the audience arose immediately to sing with us. Their smiles were priceless. We felt such a connection and genuine love for the people of North Macedonia and we are so grateful for their hospitality and love.

Our 2022 European tour was life-changing as we shared our cultural heritage and traditions. We move forward with fortified testimonies, stronger characters, and greater charity. We look forward to next year!



Back in School!

By Amy Jex, Traditionz Director

Traditionz '22 was finally able to return to the schools after a 3-year hiatus due to COVID-19! For many schools that we went to, ours was the first assembly they have had in two years. We had to work really hard even to get back into schools. Many of our contacts, including principals, had retired or moved schools. In the end we did 44 shows in elementary and middle schools, a Veterans' center, and a few community events. It was wonderful to be back into live performance! There is nothing like the genuine laughter of a child to make you smile!



Our show, *Celebrate!* focused on holidays and traditions around the world that bring people together. We were fortunate to have Ed Austin work with the dancers in the French Canadian dance! We are always happy to connect students to our folk dance roots and the people who have made today's opportunities possible.

We love seeing alumni in our audiences as well! More than a handful of BYU Folk Dance alumni are administrators, teachers, and staff in Utah schools. We appreciate their support in bringing us to their schools and continuing to expose children to dance and culture!



Frozen Fun

This summer, Traditionz was also able to collaborate on the new Vocal Point music video, "Frozen Medley"!

The dancers are from Traditionz and the choreography and coordination by folk dance alumni Ashley Jex and Julianne Binns.

Check it out [here](#).



The Austins Go Serve Another Mission!

Dearest folk dancers,

Vickie and I are very excited to announce that we have received a call to serve in the France Paris mission as Stake Young Single Adult Program specialists. President Michael Hansen with his wife, Jeanne, preside over this mission. It will be extra special because it contains most of the Belgium Brussels Mission where our son Trevor served his mission in 1999. And our grandson, Solomon (eight years old), is also presently in a French Immersion elementary school... so it looks like French will be our next language to explore.

We are very excited to serve our Savior in this part of the world, and know that this new experience could be quite different to what we experienced in Serbia. So far, it looks like we will be asked to travel throughout the mission and Central Europe, to work with YSAs during conferences, and special weekend activities. Under the guidance of our Mission President, we are in the process of creating some ideas as to what this might look like. When not traveling, we would most likely assist a local YSA couple in the area where we will live. All of the details are still to be determined and it is very exciting to consider all of the possibilities. Paris may be our homebase, but that also is still under consideration.

We know that our BYU experiences with each of you have helped to prepare us for what we will be asked to do. We love each of you very much and invite you to consider, someday, also serving as Senior Missionaries. There are so many opportunities and the need is great. We love each of you so much and pray to Heavenly Father for each of you and your families to be watched over, protected, and cared for.

Blessings... and lots of hugs,

Ed and Vickie





BYU Folk Dance Archive is LIVE!

To all IFD alumni and their families,

After 5 years of work, I'm thrilled to announce that the BYU Folk Dance Archive is now online!! This is the most complete and comprehensive archive of any organization at BYU, according to the archivist of the BYU Library Special Collections. Below are detailed instructions on how to access the archive and download the material from any of the first 20 years currently available (1955-56 through 1975-76).

This is an ongoing project that is massive in scale. It takes time to complete each year so please be patient. Following years will be added as they are completed. If any alumni would like to add their personal collections to the archive, feel free to contact me at rp.audio@comcast.net. In the meantime, enjoy the treasures that are available and spread the word!

-Ryan Purcell

BYU Folk Dance Archive Log-In Instructions

*These are huge files, so I suggest completely downloading one year at a time to not overload the server and your computer.

To Access the Folk Dance Archive:

1: Go to www.wasabi.com and Click on "Sign In" OR go to this link: <https://console.wasabisys.com/#/login>

2: Log In with the following information:

Root Account Email: rp.audio@comcast.net

Password: #IFDarchive

3: Click on: Sign In

4: Click on: wasabi--cloud-1370eb8f-a097-4529-9425-1a26a3139cfe

5: Click on: BYU Folk Dance Archive (Zipped) - DO NOT CHECK THE BOX!!!

6: Double-Click on Name. This should show the arrow next to "Name" pointing UP, which will list the years in chronological order.

7: Scroll to the bottom of the page and set "Rows per Page" to 100. This will show all years currently available.

8: Check the box next to the desired year and click on the .zip file name of that year.

9: A window labeled "Fine Details" will open up on the right.

10: Click on: Download File (DON'T CLICK ON DELETE FILE!!!!). These are huge files, so it will take some time to download... possibly several hours! BE PATIENT! It will be worth the wait.)

11: Find downloaded .zip file on your computer.

12: Double-Click on that file. It should "unzip" the file into a Folder with the same name. The contents of that year's archive are now available for you to enjoy.





Folk Dance Rewind

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

This time around, we're taking you back to 1974-1975. This well traveled team toured to Nebraska, Minnesota, Nevada, Idaho, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Washington, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Holland, Belgium, France, and Spain!



Kathy Halliday, Anne Hall, Delynne Butcher in Carolina



Dan Ross, Craig Steed, Jack Spencer, Dale Smith, Delynne Butcher, Garth Peay, Kathie Tenney, Dennis Hill in Hungarian in CAW.



Bertha Hiskey, Julie Nash, Eilene Erikson, Claudia Beck, Don Allen in Paris



Filming a TV show in Vichy, France
Launi Simmonds, Eilene Erikson



Gannat, France Festival Parade

Stay Connected

Visit our website at byufolkdancealumni.com to see Tour Histories, CAW programs and posters, newsletters, and more!

We also have a [BYU Folk Dance Alumni](#) Facebook group. Join us!

You can stay up-to-date with the current team by visiting the [BYU Folk Dance](#) Facebook page and following the [BYU International Folk Dance](#) Youtube channel for tour and performance videos.

Aren't getting our emails? Please email alumni@byufolkdancealumni.com to update your email address or sign up to receive alumni emails.

