



# The Folk Dancer



The Official Newsletter of the BYU Folk Dance Alumni

Fall 2023

## Upcoming Events

### World of Dance

- Sept. 21-22 @ 7:30pm
  - Marriott Center, Provo
  - [arts.byu.edu](http://arts.byu.edu)
- Sept. 23 @ 2 pm & 7:30pm
  - Browning Center, Ogden
  - [onstageogden.org](http://onstageogden.org)

### Cougar Canyon Pre-game Performance

- Sept. 29 @ 4-8 pm
- All Folk Dance Ensembles and Living Legends
- Helaman Field

### Christmas Around the World

- Dec. 1 @ 7:30pm
- Dec. 2 @ 2pm & 7:30pm
- Marriott Center, Provo
- [arts.byu.edu](http://arts.byu.edu)
- Tickets on sale Oct. 18

### CAW Alumni Reception

- Dec. 2 @ 4pm
- Gordon B. Hinckley Alumni Center Assembly Hall

## Announcements

- We need your help! If you were on the 2003, 2016, 2018, or 2020 teams, we still need help to finish the histories! Please email [gjrawlings@gmail.com](mailto:gjrawlings@gmail.com) to find out how to help.
- Clara Jamison was awarded the alumni chapter replenishment grant for fall semester.

## Cross Cultural Connections



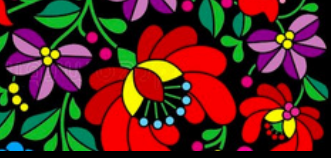
by Jeanette Geslison, IFDE Artistic Director

Our tour this summer took us to Hungary, Austria, and Czechia. We were invited to participate in two large international folk dance festivals: the *Duna Karnival*, in Budapest, Hungary, and *Festival "Strážnice"* in Strážnice, Czechia. We shared the stage with incredible professional dance ensembles at the *Duna Karnival* including the *Duna Arts Ensemble* and the *Hungarian State Ensemble*, both from Hungary, and *Arsiani Georgian State Ensemble*. At *Festival "Strážnice,"* we shared the stage with dance ensembles from the Netherlands (*Paloia*), South Korea, Slovakia, and Hungary. This festival also included hundreds of local Czech groups with festival patrons up to 30,000 coming in from all surrounding areas and countries.

### Tour highlight: Performing Hungarian dance in Hungary

The primary purpose for these festivals is to share traditional dance and music in cross cultural performances representing each group's own national heritage. In addition to being ambassadors for our American traditions, we were invited to perform our new Hungarian dance piece entitled "Dulándlé" at the *Duna Karnival* in Budapest, Hungary. This experience became one of the highlights for us during our tour.





## Cross Cultural Connections Continued

The invitation came back in October of 2022, when Zsolt Juházs, artistic director and choreographer of the Duna Ensemble, the Hungarian host group at the *Duna Karnival*, came to BYU in Provo to set the choreography and work with the BYU student dancers. We worked all year to perfect the dance movement, the styling, and the Hungarian shouts. Upon arrival at the *Duna Karnival* we were able to meet again with Zsolt and his dancers for several workshops that helped the BYU dancers further deepen their understanding and embodiment of the Kalotaszeg dance style. We were fortunate to be accompanied by the Hungarian Duna Ensemble musicians for one of our two performances of “Dulándlé.” The students were nervous to perform, especially after seeing the amazing Hungarian dance ensembles perform the day before. I assured the students that they were prepared and that our hard work and respect for their dance traditions were evident. Following the first performance many Hungarian audience members rushed to us very excitedly to congratulate us and wanted to take photos with our dancers. We received comments such as, “I thought you were Hungarians, and not American students. You performed our dance so beautifully.” It was indeed an impactful and reassuring experience that created a strong bond between our two cultures.



Our student performers best quote the impact of our experience here:

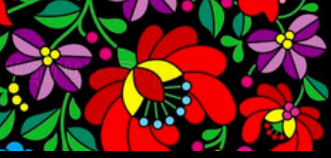
*“It was humbling and in some ways a little scary to be performing their dances for the native Hungarians. The choreography has for a long time brought a sense of excitement as the music speeds up in the beginning of the piece, before any dancing has started. This was amplified, as just by taking the stage the audience began to watch excitedly, and then they began to clap with the music as it sped up to begin the Legényes. It was an incredible feeling to experience their culture on the stage and feel how much they appreciated our efforts in learning their dances.”*

- Braden Duke

*“The strongest connection I made with the culture through dance was when we were able to perform our Hungarian dance, Dulándlé for the Hungarians. I could feel the love, support, and excitement from the audience.”*

- Kelsey Christensen





## Cross Cultural Connections Continued

*“All of those hours culminated in this one moment when we would display our efforts to the Hungarian audience, the people we had strived to represent. I belted out those women’s shouts and performed with this buzzing energy tingling through my body. It felt like a dream. I felt a sort of triumph as I danced, and I realize now that it was pride at having made this offering of a tiny piece of Hungary that I’ve worked so hard for and feeling like they accepted it—they accepted us. I feel somewhat a part of them now, like we have a shared knowledge that other’s don’t understand. It’s a kinship earned from the time and dedication put into embodying their heritage. This was a beautiful moment for me.”*

- Tori Stone



*“I never want to forget the feeling of performing Dulándlé on stage for a Hungarian audience. As my last performance in an international costume as a member of IFDE, having it all culminate together in a foreign country doing their traditional dance in authentic costumes gave me a sense of fulfillment and pride that was overwhelming. I felt so happy that the hard work I had put in to learn and perfect the choreography*

*and styling of the Hungarian Kalotaszeg dance had paid off. Throughout our performance, audience members clapped and when we finished, they all joined together in a perfectly unison rhythm. In that moment I felt a distinct love for these people, their culture and gratitude for this beautiful opportunity.”*

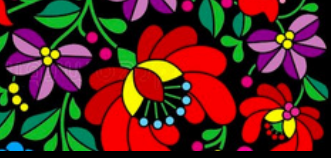
- Hanna Storheim



### **2023 Europe Summer Tour:**

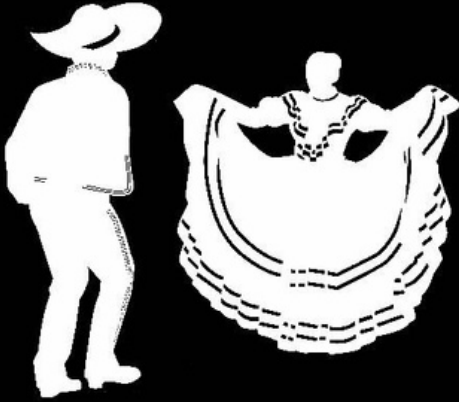
- BYU dancers: 28
- BYU musicians: 7
- Tour leaders: 4
- BYU media specialists: 2





## New Fall Choreography

### Visiting Choreographers:



- **Miguel Peña, MFA, Artistic Director UTRGV Ballet Folklorico**
  - University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- **Mateus and Priscila Arruda from Lages, Southern Brazil**
  - Presenting dances of Portuguese influence
  - This project is a result of student Kye Davis's research trip in January of 2023 to southern Brazil to research and learn about the Chula dance tradition.
- **Gary Larsen, PhD BYU Idaho Professor of Dance**
  - Presenting Quebecoise step dances

### Other New IFDE Choreography:

- Oberek & Kujawiak, Poland
  - Choreographer: Jeanette Geslison

### Other New Choreography for Christmas Around the World:

- Filipino dance medley
  - Student choreographer: Tana Bybee
  - For IFDE and Tier II Ensemble
- Ceili Medley featuring Scottish and Irish dancers
  - IFDE and Tier II Ensemble
- Hungarian dances from Dunántúl, including Kalosca and Somogy
  - Choreographer: Jeanette Geslison
  - 2:00 Ensemble
- Polonaise and Krakowiak, Poland
  - Choreographers: Amy Jex and Emilee Wright
  - 9:00 and 10:00 Ensembles
- Square Dance, USA
  - Choreographers: Emilee Wright and Amy Jex
  - 9:00 and 10:00 Ensembles

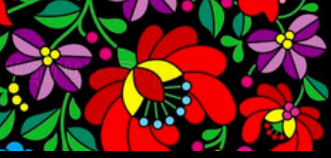


### Christmas Around the World Guest Performers:

- UTRGV Ballet Folklorico
- Living Legends: Latin Section
- BYU Gamelan and Balinese dancers







## 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 BYU Folk Dance Archives. Special thanks to Ryan Purcell for his countless hours creating this archive.

This time we're revisiting 1982-1983.



CAW 1982: Spanish (Greg Acton, Allen Glander, Wendy Stapley, Margaret Boyd, Raymond Chase, Bill Sorba, Robert Cramer, and others.



CAW 1982 - Romanian: Brent Schneider, Kelly Gleave



CAW 1982 - Mexican: Kelly Gleave & Colleen Anderson



The team toured Utah, Arizona, Puerto Rico, Japan, Korea, & the Phillipines.



Group picture in Korea



Mary Bee with audience members in the Phillipines.

## Stay Connected

Visit our website at [byufolkdancealumni.com](http://byufolkdancealumni.com) to see Tour Histories, CAW programs and posters, newsletters, the archives, and more!

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

Stay up-to-date with the current team:

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



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