

THE FOLK DANCER 2021



65TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



2021 marks the 65th year since the founding of the International Folk Dance Program at BYU back in 1956. It also was the 60th Anniversary of *Christmas Around the World!* There were lots to celebrate and plenty of reasons to get together. About 150 folk dance alumni gathered on Saturday, December 4th after the matinee performance of CAW in the Harmon Conference Center for some good food, folk dancing, and remembering GREAT memories!



FOLK DANCE ALUMNI CHAPTER GETS NEW CHAIR

By Tamara Marshall Chamberlain

Hello Alumni! I am so thankful that I have had the opportunity to serve as the alumni chapter chair for the past 6 years. It has been my privilege to give back to the organization that changed the path of my life back when I was at BYU. Through the years we have had many occasions to get together and celebrate, and those are wonderful, meaningful times.



Even through a pandemic with limited contact and performances canceled, we were able to remain connected, thanks to our amazing website (BYUFolkDanceAlumni.com) and various technological means. This brief separation made our in-person 65th Anniversary Celebration even more special. There is nothing like our folk dance family!

However, I believe that as a chapter, we can do more! There is POWER when we are unified, and I am excited to see what this new era will bring. For two years now, we have started a “Give Now” initiative with the student performers donating back to the Replenishment Grant Scholarship fund that the folk dance alumni can award to a deserving student each year. It would thrill me to see that grant account filled with donations, from not only students, but from ALUMNI. If you feel so inclined to give, here is a website for a quick and easy donation process: www.give.byu.edu/fd.

For 2021, we hope to be awarded “True Blue” status by the BYU Alumni Association. There are various requirements to be given this award and with it comes a monetary deposit into our alumni account to help cover the cost of events. We hope to provide not only social gatherings in 2022 but also service opportunities, recreational dance events for alumni, and scholarship awards for folk dance students.



It’s an honor to be a part of such a group and I look forward to still serving on the alumni board, which I encourage many of you to consider participating on as well. It is time well spent I can assure you!

Meet Jared Fugal, our new folk dance alumni chapter chair. Jared has faithfully served on our alumni board for the past 10 years and we are so thrilled to welcome him as our fearless leader! Thank you, Jared, for your willingness to serve in this capacity. You will be amazing, and we are so thankful!



Dear friends, this opportunity to serve was most unexpected, but I'm grateful that it gives me the opportunity to give back to BYU Folk Dance. Some of my happiest times and fondest memories at BYU came during my time as a dancer: in class, at club night, and on stage, including a few times as an alumnus. Beyond that, however, Christmas Around the World has been a treasured family tradition for over 50 years, from when I was little myself to now when our little grandchildren are part of my family at the concert. Our children say that Christmas doesn't start until we go to *Christmas Around the World!*

I appreciate so much the service of our past two alumni chairs, Tamara Chamberlain and Brent Lewis, and I'm grateful for their ongoing support as well as that of others who also devote untold time and effort to this cause. It was great to see so many of you at the alumni reception after *Christmas Around the World*, and I look forward to gathering with even more of you (virtually if need be) and doing good together, not just at the reception but also at other upcoming events.

By Jared Fugal, Alumni Committee Chair



Did I mention I love hiking and just being outdoors...?





The International Folk Dance Ensemble 2021



Christmas Around the World Concert Notes

By Artistic Director, Jeanette Geslison

This year's 60th celebration of *Christmas Around the World* is entitled **Rejoice** and will take place December 3-4, 2021.

The celebration of the Scandinavian advent will be featured in this year's concert as we rejoice through the expressions of cultural dance and music. During this time of the pandemic, we are all gaining new perspectives on life. It is a time of healing, a time to develop hope, and a time to understand humanity with a new lens. Christ taught and emulated all of these virtues. They are universal, and they likewise tie into the foundational meaning of Christmas.

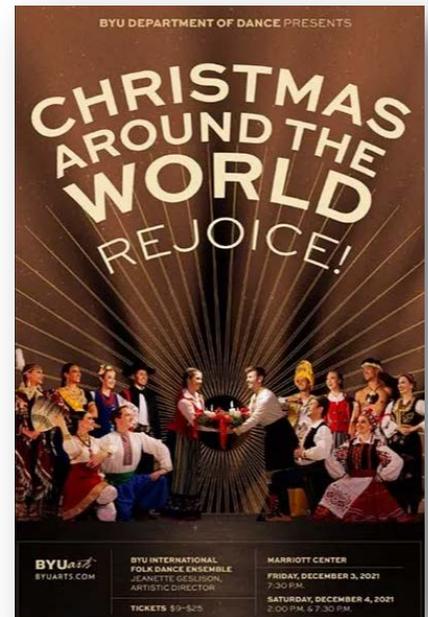
The 2021 International Folk Dance Ensemble is pleased to premiere: **Sóvidéki Christmas Fest**, a Hungarian Christmas special, choreographed by Jeanette Geslison and Jacob Madsen; **Khorovod** (Russia), staged by Jeanette Geslison; and **Irish Medley** choreographed by student Kierica McPherson. Recent premieres, but first time performed in *Christmas Around the World*, will include **Igre Iz Šumadije**, and medley of Serbian dances, choreographed by Milorad Runo and staged by Michael Malich; **Jump, Jive, an' Wail**, an American Lindy Hop choreographed by Eliane Grenko; **Big Blue Showdown**, an American clogging piece choreographed by Greg and Maria Tucker; and **Troika** (Russia), choreographed by Amy Jex. We are also excited to restage our iconic old favorite Romanian dances **Călușarii** and **Plaiuri Oltenesti**, and Ukrainian **Hopak**.

Our guest performers this year include **BYU's Living Legends**, directed by Jamie Kalama Wood, Assistant Professor. They will join us in an exciting presentation of Native American dance selections. We are also excited to feature **Ngoma Y'afrika Cultural Center** directed by Yvonne Baraketse.

Other countries represented in this year's production are Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Colombia, Scotland, Tibet, India, and Israel. **Mountain Strings**, our folk music ensemble, will provide live accompaniment.

BYU Traditionz

A mesmerizing Hungarian bottle dance, an exciting Indian harvest dance, and a percussive Indonesian clapping dance are just a few of the pieces that were showcased in BYU 'Traditionz' 2021 digital series, *Around the World*. 'Traditionz', BYU's cultural dance outreach company worked tirelessly over Winter Semester 2021 to learn, rehearse, and film choreography and instructional videos that celebrate the diversity of cultures across the globe.



For 30 years, BYU 'Traditionz' has traveled to Utah schools each spring to provide elementary school students with an entertaining and educational dance performance. This year, as a live outreach production was not an option, the 28 dancers, along with BYU's 'Living Legends', worked hard to create a digital video series called Around the World that featured 19 dance videos, 9 instructional videos (adapted for social distancing), 5 coloring pages, and a few lesson plans that teachers can use in their classroom and even over Zoom!



Historically, Traditionz's audience has consisted of students from about 25 Utah schools per year. Thanks to physical distancing restraints forcing 'Traditionz' to get creative with their outreach program, the program's audience has expanded significantly across the country to other states and countries. Teachers, parents, and friends could request them by visiting BYUTraditionz.com and registering for the materials using a google form.



Each dance in this virtual series was filmed in the classroom that 'Traditionz' rehearses in—the setting most similar to a live performance in a school gym. Just like the young students who viewed the dance videos, dancers on 'Traditionz' “experienced remote instruction, wearing masks in class, social distancing as much as possible, and other challenges the pandemic has brought to education. Around the World was available for use in its entirety from April-June 2021. A few of the videos and resources remain on our website BYUTraditionz.com

Did you and your family or students enjoy them? Let us know at byutraditionz@gmail.com!
By Hanna Gemperline, (BYU Traditionz student performer)

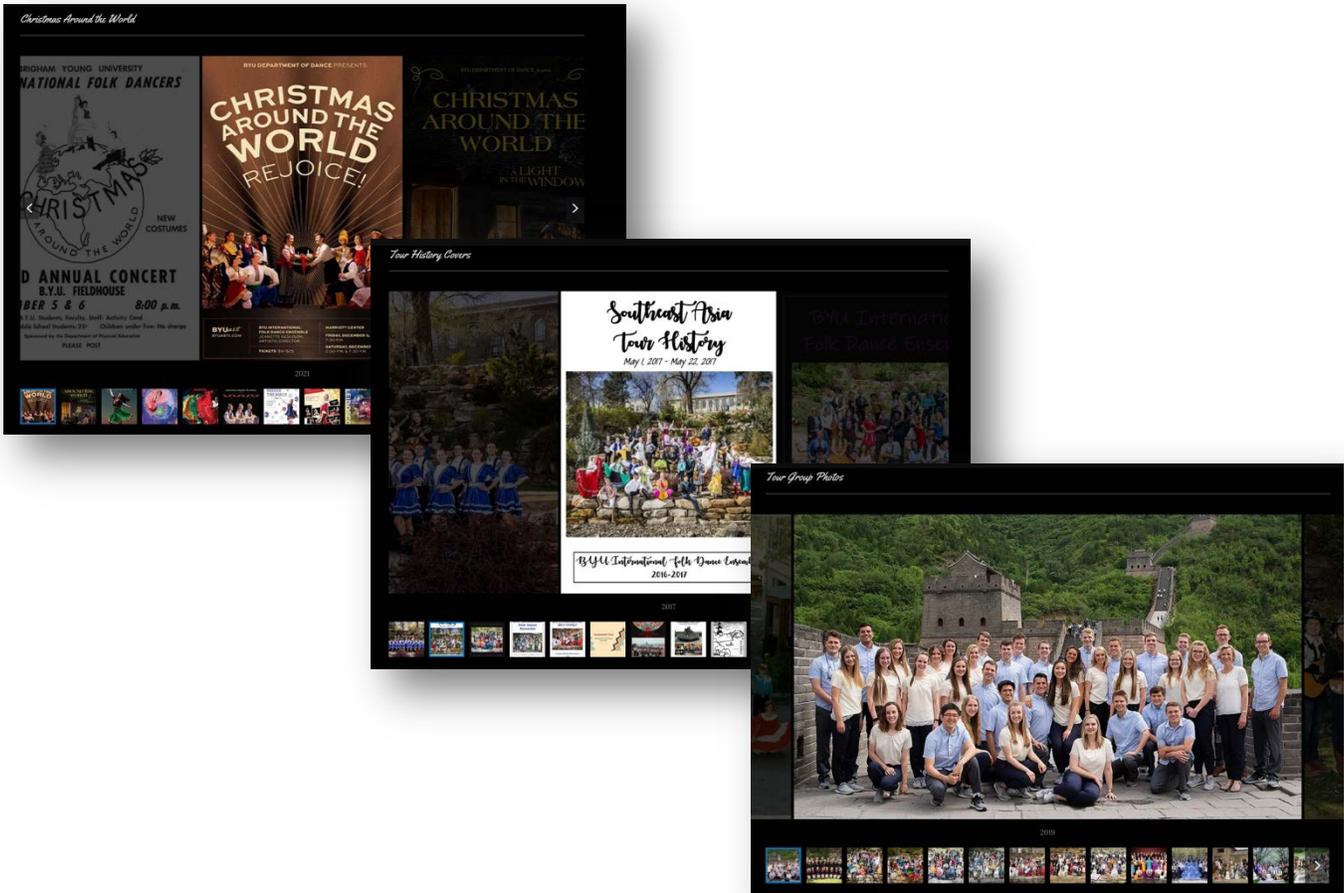
Visit our BYUFolkDanceAlumni.com Website



Have you visited our folk dance alumni website recently? (BYUFolkDanceAlumni.com) We have quick links to [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) for all related activities the Folk Dancers are involved with. New video releases, updates of performances and highlights of featured dancers. Lots of featured folk dance videos can be seen throughout our website for easy viewing. As dates become available for 2021, folk dance events and activities will be listed on the homepage of the alumni website for easy access.

We are getting so close to having our tour history archives completed. We need your help to finish this up with years **2016**, **2018**, and **2019** still missing. Please participate and get your tour history submitted so you can be a part of this amazing legacy for all alumni to enjoy.

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As always, thanks for your continued support and awesome ideas on how to make our website more meaningful and richer with your fond memories. As alumni, we are lucky to have all this history and program information available for us to share with our friends and families.

This Is Utah

Tour the world of music, dance and culture as the BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble twosteps into another country's shoes with vibrant costumes, exciting choreography, and a live bluegrass band, using dance as an interactive way to celebrate heritage and learn more about different cultures around the world.

Watch the Documentary on PBS

Let us know if your email changes or we need to add your alumni friends if they are not receiving our emails and announcements. (alumni@byufolkdancealumni.com)

Sincerely, Alumni Committee