

BYU DEPARTMENT OF DANCE PRESENTS

# CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD REJOICE!



**BYU***arts*  
BYUARTS.COM

BYU INTERNATIONAL  
FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE  
JEANETTE GESLISON,  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

TICKETS \$9-\$25

MARRIOTT CENTER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2021  
7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021  
2:00 P.M. & 7:30 P.M.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Preparations for this concert begin nearly a year in advance. Of course, last year, our concert was canceled by the pandemic—the first time the concert has ever been cancelled. *Christmas Around the World* is the longest-running Christmas production on BYU campus, having started in 1960 in the Smith Fieldhouse. This concert, each year, brings a sense of purpose and unity not only to the performers but to audience members alike. BYU's motto, "The World Is Our Campus," is brought to life right here in this concert through vibrant representations of cultural dance and music. The students learn from, and work closely with, faculty and cultural dance experts from all over the world, who are brought in to share their knowledge and cultural heritage with the students.

As we prepared for this year's concert, I was distinctly impressed by the words "Hope, Healing, and Humanity." These words must have resonated with everyone who has endured this pandemic. We are now beginning to see a path forward as we heal through hope. The trials and challenges we have undergone during the pandemic have helped us to realize the importance of human interaction. This aspect of humanity is what we celebrate in this concert. The traditions of cultural dance and music lie at the heart of the need to feel unified, to belong to a community, and to feel a sense of cultural identity.

"Hope, Healing, and Humanity" will be symbolized here today through the Scandinavian Advent wreath. The tradition of the Advent wreath—with its four candles—welcomes Christmas by celebrating each of the four Sundays before Christmas. In Scandinavia we light one candle on the first Advent Sunday, then two candles on the second Sunday, until the final Sunday, when we light all four candles. In this concert you will learn how the candles symbolize hope, healing, joy, and the need to reach out to humanity through peace.

More than 160 student performers have been rehearsing and perfecting a diverse repertoire of cultural dance and music selections since the beginning of fall semester. Leading up to this concert, we have had the opportunity to work with several cultural dance experts. Joseph Kroupa, an alumnus of our program and Romanian dance expert, came to restage his choreographic work "Calusul." Tym Jaddock, a Ukrainian dance expert from Canada who has studied traditional dance extensively in Ukraine, refined our movement skills for "Volyn" and "Hopak." And, earlier this year, the students studied with Lindy Hop dance expert Elaine Grenko.

I am thrilled to include our two guest performing groups this year: Ngoma y'Africa and BYU's Living Legends featuring their Native American student performers. These performing groups add a rich cultural diversity to this concert tradition as we embrace friendship and belonging.



**Jeanette Geslison**  
*Artistic Director*



BYU COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF DANCE PRESENTS

# CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD REJOICE!

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2021, 7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021, 2:00 P.M.

MARRIOTT CENTER

**Please join us at the Folk Dance Alumni reception on December 4 in the Harman Building Ballroom at 4:00 p.m. immediately following the matinee performance.**

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Please silence all mobile phones and electronic devices.  
Photography, video and/or audio recording, and texting are  
forbidden during the performance.

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# Christmas Around the World 2021 Rejoice!

## OPENER: THE SCANDINAVIAN ADVENT—WELCOMING IN CHRISTMAS ENTIRE CAST

**Staging:** Jeanette Geslison

**Music:** “Det Kimer Nu til Julfest” (Carl Christian Nicolaj Balle), “Julen Har Bragt Velsignet Bud” (Christoph Ernst Friedrich Weyse), and “På Loftet Sidder Nissen” (Otto Teich), performed by Mountain Strings

**Musical Arrangement:** Mark Geslison

## RUSSIA: KHOROVOD INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

Dance of the Birch Tree illustrates man’s reverence for the earth, its natural cycles, and the passing of the seasons. The awakening trees symbolize rebirth and the approaching of spring. Khorovod dances belong to the family of circle dances well known throughout eastern Europe.

**Choreography:** Jeanette Geslison

**Music:** Embroiderers Khorovod, recorded by Virsky Symphony Orchestra

**Additional Dancers:** Brooklyn Cottle, Emily Gabler, and Amy Ray (Tier II Ensemble)

## RUSSIA: TROIKA TIER II ENSEMBLE

Troika, meaning “three” or “trio,” refers to a sleigh pulled by three horses. In past centuries, this method of travel minimized strain on animals as they traversed the vast, wintry expanse of the Russian landscape. As a folk dance, the Troika is a popular Russian classic.

**Choreography:** Amy Jex, Isaiah Vela

**Music:** Troika, Andreyev Balalaika Ensemble

## UKRAINE: VOLYN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

Dances from the Volyn Province of Ukraine are known for their flamboyance and demanding technique. The rhythms and bright costumes display the energy and grace of this cultural art form.

**Choreography:** Myroslav Vantukh, artistic director of the P. Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company

**Restaging:** Luba and Yuri Grekov

**Music:** Traditional, recorded by Pavlo Virsky Ukrainian Orchestra

## COLOMBIA: CUMBIA

### TIER II ENSEMBLE

From the African word Cumbe, meaning “party” or “fun,” this dance was created during the 18th century along the Caribbean Coast of Colombia. Fusing three ethnocultural elements—African drums, Spanish romance, and Indigenous Latin American liveliness—Cumbia music and dance was born.

**Choreography:** Emily Hatch

**Music:** Oye Manita (Totó La Momposina), recorded by Totó La Momposina and Sus Tambores

## HUNGARY: SOVIDEKI CHRISTMAS FEST

### INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

A favorite Hungarian Christmas tradition includes well-polished boots and shoes placed in the window on the evening of Dec. 5 for Mikulás to find. He brings gifts for children commending them for good behavior during the year. Forgatós and Szóktetős are two traditional dances from Székelyföld (central Transylvania), where ethnic Hungarian populations reside.

**Choreography:** Jeanette Geslison and Jacob Madsen

**Music:** Pásztorok (traditional), Mennyből az angyal (traditional), Utolsóból első (traditional), recorded by Tarsoly

## IRELAND: CELTIC ROCK

### INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

Showcasing both Irish hard and soft shoe styles, this medley features a treble jig, a soft shoe reel, and treble reel in both traditional and show performance styles.

**Choreography:** Kierica McPherson with Brielle Anderson, Victoria Rimington, and Brigham Vargha

**Musical Arrangement:** The Coors and Mark Geslison

**Soloists:** Brielle Anderson, Kierica McPherson, Victoria Rimington, and Brigham Vargha

**Music:** Treble Jig (traditional), Toss the Feather (traditional), performed by Mountain Strings.

## USA: NORTH AMERICA JINGLE

### LIVING LEGENDS

To the Ojibwe tribe the jingle dance is a dance of healing. As the women dancers move, you can hear the prayers sent to the heavens.

**Choreography:** Cheyanne Elton

**Music:** “Fearless” (Northern Cree)

## USA: NORTH AMERICA MEN’S FANCY

### LIVING LEGENDS

The men’s fancy dance displays the strength, skills, and agility found in the greatest warriors.

**Choreography:** Naakaii Tsosie

**Choreography:** Naakaii Tsosi

**Music:** Guajira (Vicente Amigo), Recorded by Vicente Amigo

## **USA: THE BREAKAWAY BUG**

### **INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE**

A Lindy-style tap dance.

**Choreography:** Jacob Madsen

**Music:** “Beaumont Rag” (traditional); performed by Isaac Geslison and Alex Swindler

**Musical Arrangement:** Mark Geslison, Isaac Geslison, and Alex Swindler

**Soloists:** Rhen Davis and Victoria Rimington

## **USA: JUMP, JIVE AN’ WAIL**

### **INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE**

The Lindy Hop combines jazz, tap, breakaway, and Charleston dance styles. Originating in Harlem, New York, in the 1920s, it crossed racial boundaries as both Black and White dancers came together at 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

## **USA: APPALACHIAN CHRISTMAS TUNE**

### **MOUNTAIN STRINGS**

**Staging:** Jeanette Geslison

**Music:** “Winter Wonderland” (Felix Bernard)

**Musical Arrangement:** Mark Geslison

## **USA: THE GATHERING**

### **9:00 ENSEMBLE**

The Gathering reflects the faith and spirit of the early pioneer settlers. Leaving friends and fortunes, they came from throughout the world to follow a living prophet and embrace the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. Even today, the gathering continues.

**Choreography:** Edwin G. Austin Jr. and Kathleen Sheffield

**Restaged:** Emilee Wright

**Music:** “Harvest Home,” “Angus Campbell,” “Garden Jig,” and “Come, Come, Ye Saints” (traditional)

**Musical Arrangement:** Mark Geslison

## USA: BIG BLUE SHOWDOWN

### INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

Big Blue Showdown portrays the excitement and energy of American clogging! Traditional dance elements include hoedowns, partner circle dances, large circle dances, grand progressions, and the excitement of showing off the fanciest footwork. Big Blue Showdown will have you tapping your toes and clapping your hands to recognizable traditional tunes.

**Choreography:** Greg Tucker and Maria Tucker

**Music:** “Old Dan Tucker,” “She’ll Be Coming ’Round the Mountain,” and “Back Up and Push” (traditional), performed by Mountain Strings

**Musical Arrangement:** Mark Geslison

## INTERMISSION

### AFRICA: FURAHIA

#### NGOMA Y’AFRICA CULTURAL CENTER

Furahia, meaning “enjoy” in Swahili, is a Christmas celebration inviting you to enjoy an African Christmas nativity with authentic Christmas songs and dances from South Africa, Kenya, Ghana, Zimbabwe, and Rwanda.

**Choreography:** Yvonne Baraketse

**Music:** “Sizalelwe Indodana”(traditional), “Swahili Lullaby”(traditional), “Furahia” (traditional), “Tichanoimba Hosanah”(traditional), “Yema Mo afehyia”(traditional), “Noheli Nziza n’umwaka mushua muhire”(traditional)

### ROMANIA: CĂLUȘUL

#### INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

Căluș is a ritual dance with origins dating back to Roman times, performed each spring between Easter and Pentecost, primarily in southern Romania. The Călușari are oath-bound men who travel from house to house to bless people and crops for the upcoming year. They dance over children and sick people to cure illness and promote health, and end each courtyard ritual with a village hora. They wear red to ward off the evil eye, and use the sound of bells and spurs to frighten away evil spirits, called iele.

**Choreography:** Joseph Kroupa, additional input by Cristian Florescu

**Music:** Traditional, performed by the Chișinău Folk Ensemble

### ROMANIA: PLAIURI OLTENETI

#### INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

Two vigorous women’s dances from the region of Oltenia: Sârba pe loc and Hora și Mereul.

**Choreography:** Sonia Dion, Cristian Florescu

**Music:** Traditional, performed by Ansamblul Uniunea Tineretului Communist



## SCOTLAND: CALEDONIAN SALUTE

### 2:00 ENSEMBLE

Caledonian Salute includes the Scottish Lilt, a national dance featuring smooth and graceful movements, followed by Troy's Wedding, a festive dance set to a lively jig tempo conveying the joyous spirit of a Scottish wedding celebration.

**Choreography:** Reuel Zielke, restaging by Jacob Madsen

**Guest Pipers:** Benjamin Affleck, Enoch Jones, Jacob Udall

## INDIA: DISCOWALE

### INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE & FULL CAST

Bollywood, the famed film industry based in Mumbai, India, is characterized by elaborate music numbers, love triangles, and melodrama. This dance style combines traditional Indian dance with Western movement such as hip-hop.

**Choreography:** Greg Rawlings and Sally Rawlings

**Additional Staging:** Emilee Wright

**Music:** "Discowale Khisko" by Pritam Chakraborty; recorded by Krishnakumar Kunnath, Sunidhi Chauhan, and Rana Mazumder

**Soloists:** Natasha Keckley, Matthew Peterson, Ian Woodward

## UKRAINE: CAROL OF THE BELLS

### MOUNTAIN STRINGS

**Music:** Carol of the Bells (Mykola Leontovych)

**Musical Arrangement:** Trans-Siberian Orchestra

## CHINA: THE CHILDREN OF SNOW MOUNTAIN

### INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

The faraway snowcapped mountains of Tibet stand unpolluted like the air on the plateau. Fresh fallen white snow, like the air, so clean, so pure, so free, inspire the children to embody simplicity and kindness in their hearts.

**Choreography:** Su Yafei

**Music:** Daguo Snow Mountain Song (Zhang Nian Feng Yun), Rammedo (Zhi Want Sangzhu), recorded by Zhiwang Langebu

## ISRAEL: NA'ARA

### 10:00 ENSEMBLE

Traditional dances in modern Israel combine elements of old and new in the spirit of celebration and praise.

**Choreography:** Delynne Peay, with adaptations by Breanna Daniels

**Music:** Na'arah (Shlomo Shai), performed by Mountain Strings

## **DENMARK: CHRISTMAS EVE**

### **FULL CAST**

Christmas Eve in Denmark and throughout Scandinavia is marked with the tradition of dancing around the Christmas tree.

**Staging:** Jeanette Geslison

**Music:** Højt fra Træets Grønne Top (Emil Horneman), Nu er Det Jul Igen (traditional), performed by Mountain Strings

## **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

## **CURTAIN CALL**

**Staging:** Amy Jex

**Music:** Toss the Feather (The Corrs), performed by Mountain Strings



## DIRECTORS



**JEANETTE GESLISON**  
**Artistic Director**  
International Folk  
Dance Ensemble



**AMY JEX**  
**Director**  
Tier II Ensemble



**EMILEE WRIGHT**  
**Director**  
9:00 Ensemble



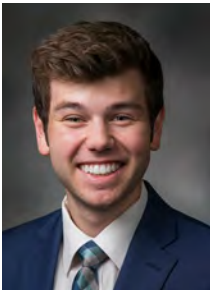
**JACOB MADSEN**  
**Director**  
2:00 Ensemble  
**Rehearsal Assistant**  
International Folk Dance Ensemble



**BREANNA DANIELS**  
**Director**  
10:00 Ensemble



**MARK GESLISON**  
**Artistic Director**  
Mountain Strings



**IAN WOODWARD**  
**Rehearsal Assistant**  
Tier II Ensemble

# 2021–2022 MOUNTAIN STRINGS

Directed by Mark Geslison



**ELLIE GESLISON**  
Provo, UT  
Sociology



**ISAAC GESLISON**  
Provo, UT  
Communications Studies



**QUINN GLEAVE**  
Springville, Utah  
Biochemistry



**NOEL LANCE**  
Morgan, UT  
Pre-Business



**SAWYER PORTER**  
Middleton, ID  
Pre-Communications:  
Advertising



**MATT RICKS**  
Sugar City, ID  
Physics



**ALEXANDER SWINDLER**  
Provo, UT  
Math Education

## GUEST MUSICIANS

**Adia Hansen:** Harp

**Ryan Echols:** Accordion

**Naomi Wall:** Flute

**Emilie Moellmer:** Clarinet

**Jacob Udall:** Highland pipes

**Enoch Jones:** Highland pipes

**Benjamin Affleck:** Highland pipes

**Ashlee Brouwer:** Voice (Oh Come Emmanuel) and piano (Carol of the Bells)

**David Thomas Litster:** Piano (Carol of the Bells)



# 2021–2022 INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

Directed by Jeanette Geslison



**BRIELLE ANDERSON**  
Provo, UT  
Dance Education



**STEVEN BANGARTER**  
American Fork, UT  
Graphic Design



**DAWSON COLLINS**  
Rexburg, ID  
Applied Mathematics (ACME)



**REMINGTON COMP**  
Cedar City, UT  
History



**KYE DAVIS**  
Flagstaff, AZ  
Microbiology



**RHADEN DAVIS**  
Flagstaff, AZ  
Neuroscience



**BRADEN DUKE**  
Bountiful, UT  
Cybersecurity



**CROZIER FITZGERALD**  
Rexburg, ID  
Exercise Science



**WHITNEE FOREST**  
Mesa, AZ  
Chemistry



**HANNA GEMPERLINE**  
Farmington, UT  
Experience Design and  
Management



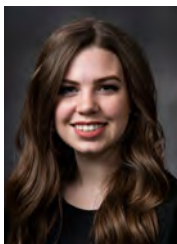
**ELISE GLOVER**  
Kokomo, IN  
Psychology



**JILLIAN JARVIS**  
South Jordan, UT  
Dance



**MCKAY JESSOP**  
Sandy, UT  
Cybersecurity



**NATASHA KECKLEY**  
Highland, UT  
Exercise Science



**HANNAH KOOYMAN**  
San Diego, CA  
Exercise Science



**ANASTASIA KRZYMOWSKI**  
Ephraim, UT  
Dance



**MAKEILA LATAPU**  
Sacramento, CA  
Human Development



**KIERICA MCPHERSON**  
Madison, CT  
Dance



**DANIEL OWEN**  
Meridian, ID  
Microbiology



**MATTHEW PETERSON**  
Alpine, UT  
Applied Mathematics



**VICTORIA RIMINGTON**  
Mapleton, UT  
Advertising



**DAVID STONE**  
Alpine, UT  
Bioinformatics



**HALLE TUCKER**  
Riverton, UT  
Human Development



**BRIGHAM VARGHA**  
Anaheim, CA  
Open Major



**ABBY WHIPPLE**  
Provo, UT  
Social Science Teaching



**IAN WOODWARD**  
Lindon, UT  
Neuroscience

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**BYU International Folk Dance**

## 9:00 ENSEMBLE

Naomi Anders  
Jon de Andrade  
Tompson Bean  
Julianne Biery  
Annie Blood  
Samuel Carpenter  
Sara Dalley  
Alena Dixon  
Liv Holyoak  
Olivia Hopkin  
Andrew James  
Dane Keckley  
Asher Long  
Jade Madison  
Yhann Masbernat  
Stirling Maughan  
Josh McKell  
Janessa Meiners  
Paul Morse  
Levi Pearson  
Tessa Ransom  
Alison Robins  
Claire Rose  
Mirka Sansores  
Ethan Sellers  
Andrew White  
Janelle Wilson  
Jane Winward  
Tori Young

**Director:** Emilee Wright

**Student Assistants:** Whitnee Forest,  
Matthew Peterson

## 10:00 ENSEMBLE

Brooklyn Brighton  
Emily Carruth  
Sabrina Ceraso  
Ryan Chou  
Zachary Curtis  
Selena Dutton  
Claire Farnsworth  
Colton Fields  
Hayden Hall  
Kendra Hanna  
Emmelyn Hawkes  
Katelynn Haymore  
Irving Hernandez  
Seth Hirschi  
Sean Hull  
Courtney Jenkins  
Emma Knight  
Abby Kooyman  
DT Litster  
Garret Lloyd  
Jaden Lorenc  
Kayla Lyman  
Arthur Mantoan  
Benjamin Parker  
Emy Shaffer  
Megan Smith  
Glory Thomas  
Jaime Thompson  
Alex Walbom

**Directors:** Breanna Daniels

**Student Assistants:** Makeila Latapu,  
Remington Comp

## 2:00 ENSEMBLE

Nicky Abraham  
Samantha Adair  
Jacob Allen  
Emma Anderson  
Bryce Barker  
Tanner Birtcher  
James Blood  
Jacob Burnham  
Isaiah Cieslewicz  
Jaime Dick  
Ellie Erickson  
Aly Faber  
Meg Granger  
Preston Hancock  
Kassidi Jensen  
Lani Johnson  
Naomi Lin  
Isaac Pimentel  
Josh Pitt  
Sarah Pringle  
Tyson Richards  
Paige Rodenberg  
Emma Rollins  
Joshua Santos  
Savannah Savage  
Lila Shumway  
Piper Smith  
Olivia Sturgeon  
Rob Weed  
David Zuniga

**Director:** Jacob Madsen

**Student Assistants:** Elise Glover,  
Mckay Jessop

## TIER II ENSEMBLE

Victoria Allen  
Dayson Barra  
Luke Beckstrand  
Kenzie Bybee Bellon  
Tana Bybee  
David Chandler  
Kelsey Christensen  
Brooklyn Cottle  
Nate Cox  
Benjamin Culverwell  
Andrew Dawson  
Spencer Day  
Kaden Dengin  
Thomas Jenson  
Jayden Jeppson  
Sydney Johnson  
Abbey Kammerman  
Natalie Lyman  
Emily Gabler Nicholas  
Keil Nicholas  
Erik Pedersen  
Katy Hollis Pedersen  
Amy Ray  
Caroline Smith  
Tori Stone  
Spencer Waddell  
Amy West  
Scott Young

**Director:** Amy Jex

**Student Assistant:** Ian Woodward



# GUEST ARTISTS

## Christmas Around the World 2021

### BYU LIVING LEGENDS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: JAMIE KALAMA WOOD



BYU Living Legends captures the essence of ancient and modern cultures in a celebration of Latin American, Native American, and Polynesian song and dance. Traditions come to life as talented dancers of these cultures blend authentic choreography, intricate costumes, and heart-pounding music into one captivating show.

The BYU Living Legends Native American section represents indigenous tribes from all across North America. These dancers come from the Navajo (Diné), Yaqui, Tulalip, and Squamish nations.

This past year, the group has focused their efforts on video and livestream performances. One of the videos, “Ozhigaabawi (One Stands Ready),” is available on YouTube and recently won Best Dance Film at the Idyllwild Film Festival. Please join us in the de Jong Theatre in March as we celebrate our 50th anniversary and present our new show, *Storytellers*.



## NGOMA Y'AFRICA

DIRECTOR: YVONNE BARAKETSE



Ngoma y'Africa Cultural Center (NACC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established in the year 2016. We are dedicated to teaching the community about the African culture by engaging individuals of all ages in various classes and workshops on African history, languages, dance, and drumming, by showcasing the beauty of African arts and crafts, by organizing stage performances, festivals, and events in conference centers, and by presenting at school assemblies, churches, corporations, marriages, and holiday celebrations such as Black History month, Kwanzaa, and more.

At our culture learning center, we aim to create a safe environment where different cultures come together and participate in activities that will create a support network for African descents from across the world, understand others, and build a broader global community.

[culturelearningcenter.org](http://culturelearningcenter.org)

Ngoma Y'Africa CC | Facebook

Ngoma Y'Africa (@ngomayafriacc) • Instagram



# REJOICE

By Emma Rollins (Dramaturg)

Rejoice, we're back in person. Rejoice, the semester is almost over. Rejoice that your family member is coming back to health. Rejoice, Jesus wins in the end. Whatever it is, rejoice. The theme of *Christmas Around the World* this year is *Rejoice*. But rejoicing isn't always joyful. Just as Adam and Eve had to learn joy from pain, good and bad often go hand in hand. So while we celebrate this Christmas season, let's reflect back on what we've had to experience to help us rejoice. In this modern day and age, the pain and hardship we see with the COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all. The announcement of a global pandemic, and finally the world moving forward, has been a major part of our history. March 12, 2020, will forever be remembered by many as the day Brigham Young University shut down and everyone left. Not knowing what the future would hold or how long the hardships were going to last, we pushed forward. The pandemic remained dominant and still rages on. With the 60th anniversary of *Christmas Around the World* being postponed, we learned even more what that pain can do to foil our joy and rejoicing.

Finally, we can begin to rejoice because today we are back together, in person, and enjoying dances from around the world. Through perseverance we gained the ability to be even more grateful for that which we have once more. Though hardships do unfortunately exist, the good that comes from them can be appreciated far more if we allow those same hardships to soften our hearts.

## Christmas Traditions

As the Christmas season approaches, the world becomes brighter and better when we turn toward tradition. Whether that's a favorite food, a favorite song, or just the season, this can be a very joyous time of year for all people. As we reflect on traditions, we look specifically at Scandinavia, including the countries of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. Around the Christmas holiday, Scandinavia celebrates Advent, a traditional holiday ritual. It's a way to light the world as we get closer to the celebration of Christ's birth.

On each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, families and friends gather together and sit down to light a candle representing something they hold dear to their hearts. These are often ideals, such as hope, healing, joy, and humanity.

The word "Advent" derives from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," as in Christ is coming. So it seems only fitting that a song that is traditionally sung in connection with Advent is the song "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." While on the surface this hymn is about the birth of Christ, a double meaning in each of the verses is the idea that we are also preparing now for Christ's return. The original version written during the eighth or ninth century features repeating O Antiphons. The verses originally were sung: "O Sapientia (wisdom) / O Adonai (Hebrew word for God) / O Radix Jesse (stem or root of Jesse) / O Clavis David (key of David) / O Oriens (dayspring) / O Rex Gentium (king of the Gentiles) / O Emmanuel / (O Virgo Virginum [virgin of virgins])." If you take the first letter of the second word of each antiphon, it spells *SARCORE*—which, if read backwards, forms a two-word acrostic, *Ero cras*, meaning "I will be present tomorrow."

With hope and joy we not only look back and rejoice but look forward to Christ's return. As the candles burn to signify the light that He brings into the world, we can look forward, knowing that although life might be hard right now, there is an immeasurable amount of joy and happiness that is waiting for us.

#### Carol of the Bells

Although not rich in lyrics pulled from scripture, unlike Handel's *Messiah*, "Carol of the Bells" reminds us about the important need for hope during the Christmas season.

Like the Israelites in the first century, we await a Savior to return to the world and set everything right. As we wait, we remember the first time our Savior came to earth and brought hope to the world.

Through this song, we can also discover the importance of hopeful lyrics during the most difficult times of our lives. The original version of this song was composed during one of the greatest atrocities the world had ever seen, the First World War. People had never witnessed destruction of that caliber.

Finally, "Carol of the Bells" shows us that we can transform something and make it into something beautiful. We may find that throughout our lives God shapes us from one thing into another. The song originated as a New Year's tune, but now almost every church sings the song for the Christmas season.

No matter what the case, God can use us as a vessel for hope, to bring cheer to people no matter what the season: Christmas, New Year's, or another time of the year entirely.

—Mark Geslison (Mountain Strings Director)

With the pandemic, and the way the world is changing, now is the time, more than ever, to have hope for the future. We saw a world shut down in what felt like a matter of moments, and we are just now beginning the process to step out of the turmoil. "Carol of the Bells," written in a time of turmoil during World War I, was striving even then to portray hope and joy amid the heartache and pain. Just as "Carol of the Bells" states, let us "send on without end [our] joyful tone to every home" and this season as the world is still trying to recover from our turmoil, let's turn to hope. Let's understand the pain that we had to go through and turn toward joy that combats the pain. Rejoice, Jesus is the Christ. Rejoice, it's Christmas time. Above all else, rejoice!



## 65TH YEAR OF FOLK DANCE

This year we mark the 65th anniversary of BYU International Folk Dance. In its beginning, back in 1956, there were only four to six couples who danced with the group. Who could have ever imagined that 65 years later BYU would be home to thousands of dancers who have participated in the folk dance program? As the alumni affinity chapter chair, I have witnessed many alumni come back to BYU with hearts full of gratitude for the memorable experiences they shared here, especially during *Christmas Around the World*, which happens to also be celebrating its 60th anniversary this year!

The Lord said in D&C 136:28, “If thou art merry, praise the Lord with singing, with music, with dancing, and with a prayer of praise and thanksgiving.” I speak for the alumni over the last 65 years when I say that participating in the folk dance program allows us to praise our God, while also connecting with His children all over the world. We feel a sense of unity and belonging when we not only share our cultural dances with them but also welcome their unique cultures into our hearts. Because of this, I, along with many others, will continue to praise our Creator and *Rejoice* with Him as we celebrate the beautiful life He has given us.

Tamara Marshall Chamberlain  
BYU Folk Dance Affinity Chapter Chair  
2016–2021



1956



Mary Bee Folk Dance Class, 1956



## FOLK DANCE TIMELINE

# CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

1956

The Folk Dance club started with six couples.

1958 1959 1960

Folk Dance Festival Concert was held in the Smith Fieldhouse with 250 dancers.

International Folk Dance Concert.

The first concert under the name of *Christmas Around the World*.

1964

American dances were added to the repertoire—only international dances were practiced prior to 1964.

First European Tour.

1965

Classes and rehearsals were moved to new campus buildings, Richards Building and Wilkinson Center. Prior to 1965 they were held in the Women's Gym (on University Ave.), the basement of the Smith Family Living Center, and in various LDS meetinghouses in Provo.

1969

The club had grown to 380 dancers—all were auditioned into the program.



1958



1959



Mary Bee Jensen on stage



Ed Austin on stage



Mary Bee Jensen on stage

1973

1985

2011

2020 2021

1973–1985 The tradition continues and grows.

The move to the Marriott Center.

The baton is passed to new artistic director Ed Austin.

The baton is passed to new artistic director Jeanette Geslison.

The concert is canceled due to the pandemic.

The tradition continues toward, and into, a new century.



Mary Bee Jensen and Ed Austin



Mary Bee Jensen, Ed Austin, and Jeanette Geslison





# CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD REJOICE!

## CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD—AN OVERVIEW

In the fall of 1960, the BYU International Folk Dancers, under the direction of Mary Bee Jensen and in an effort to welcome in the Christmas season, decided to start a new tradition of *Christmas Around the World*. This event, a grand concert of folk dances and music from around the world, would be Mary Bee's—and her students'—gift to BYU and to the local community. Throughout the first 13 years, concerts were held in the Smith Fieldhouse. With the completion of the Marriott Center in 1973, *Christmas Around the World* moved to its spacious new venue. The festive concert has resided in the Marriott Center ever since.



*Christmas Around the World* has become a tradition of happiness, joy, and unity. The dancers perform cultural dances from selected countries with a vibrant precision and integrity to their origin. The intricate choreography, vibrant costuming, and vivacious music bring to life representations from the past and present with genuine exuberance. Each year the performers portray the motto seen at the entrance to the BYU's campus: "The World Is Our Campus." This concert has become an opportunity for students to explore diverse cultural heritage through dance and music. That opportunity brings joy to every performer as they share this concert tradition with the audience members who come to the event each year.

The many student performers who have participated in *Christmas Around the World* over the years know that this great concert is a true once-in-a-lifetime experience. These students have brought cultures of the world together. They promote cultural understanding and encourage peace throughout the world.

# 2021–2022 FOLK DANCE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

We thank all who have generously contributed in supporting our program by providing students with scholarship opportunities. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

## MARY BEE JENSEN SCHOLARSHIP

Ian Woodward  
Kierica McPherson

## THE SPIRIT OF FOLK DANCE SCHOLARSHIP

Natasha Keckley

## PARDOE-ANDERSON PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP

Halle Tucker

## COLLEEN WEST PERCUSSIVE FOOTWORK SCHOLARSHIP

Dawson Collins

## PERFORMANCE MISSIONARY AWARD

Whitnee Forest

## OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARD

Hannah Kooyman

## CHERRILL LIPTAK SCHOLARSHIP

David Stone

## BRIDGEBUILDER SCHOLARSHIP

Elise Glover

## FOLK DANCE ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

Victoria Rimington

If you are interested in providing scholarships for the folk dance program and its students, please contact Damien Bard at 801-422-1193

or visit

[GIVE.BYU.EDU/FOLKDANCE](https://give.byu.edu/folkdance)

## HARMAN AWARD

Alex Swindler  
Quinn Gleave  
Isaac Geslison



COLLEGE OF  
FINE ARTS  
AND  
COMMUNICATIONS

# INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCES 2021–2022

February 12	Winterfest, SLC — LDS Conference Center Theater	2:00 & 7:00 p.m.
February 25	Dance Performance Theatre, Provo, UT	7:00 p.m.
February 26	Dance Performance Theatre, Provo, UT	2:00 p.m.
March 25	Kanab High School, Kanab, UT	7:00 p.m.
March 26	Las Vegas Academy of the Arts, Las Vegas, Nevada	7:00 p.m.

## MID-SEMESTER TOUR — ARIZONA

March 2	Sunnyside High School, Tuscon, Arizona	7:00 p.m.
March 3	Queen Creek Performing Arts Center, Queen Creek, Arizona	7:00 p.m.
March 4	Scottsdale, Arizona	7:00 p.m.
March 5	Vista Center for the Arts, Surprise, Arizona	4:00 & 8:00 p.m.

## SUMMER TOUR

July	Serbia
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# CULTURAL DANCE CLASS OFFERINGS

- Dance 135–335: Tap Dance
- Dance 170–370: Cultural Dance
- Dance 171–371: American Clog Dance
- Dance 172: American Folk Dance Forms
- Dance 174–374: Irish Dance
- Dance 260: Introduction to Dance
- Dance 272: Cultural Dance Forms
- Dance 273–373: Hungarian Dance
- Dance 175–275: Polynesian Dance
- Dance 277: Spanish Dance Tech. 1
- Dance 278: Ukrainian Dance Tech. 1
- Dance 279: Indian Dance Tech. 1
- Dance 327R: Living Legends
- Dance 375: Dance-A Reflection of Culture
- Dance 376: Methods of Teaching Cultural Dance
- Dance 377: Cultural Dance Choreography
- Dance 378R: Folk Dance Performance
- Dance 478R: International Folk Dance Ensemble
- Dance 474R: Percussive Step Styles



# CREATIVE TEAM

## Artistic Director

Jeanette Geslison

## Music Director

Mark Geslison

## Script Writer

Teresa Love

## Production Manager

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

## Dramaturg

Emma Rollins

Jessie Pew

## Production Assistant

Kami Wallin

## Assistant Stage Managers

Aubree Schuck

Sarah Dalley

Jennifer Saldana

## Voice-Over

Alyssa Arimaki Hazen

David Morgan

Langi Tuifua

## Master Electrician

Tyler Christensen

## Costumer

Amy Handy

## Stitchers

Amanda Alley

Elise Glover

## Audio Engineer

Troy Streeter

## Projection Support

Kevin Anthony

## Technical Support

Jared Patching

## Audio Assistants

Patrick Egbert

Tyler Driggs

## Photography

Jaren Wilkey

Nate Edwards

## Marketing Services Manager

Rex Kocherhans

## Graphic Designers

Isabella Olson

Maria Camargo

## Preshow Coordinators

Emilee Wright

Amy Jex

Breanna Daniels

Jacob Madsen

## Children's Matinee Preshow Coordinator

Greg Tucker

## Alumni Reception

Tamara Chamberlain

## COLLEGE FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

### Dean

Ed Adams

### Associate Dean

Amy Petersen Jensen

### Associate Dean

Jeremy Grimshaw

### Associate Dean

Rory Scanlon

### Assistant Dean

Thaylene Rodgers

### Assistant Dean

Bridget Benton

### Assistant Dean

Melinda Semadeni

## DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

### Administration

Curt Holman, chair  
Kori Wakamatsu,  
assoc. chair  
Shayla Bott,  
assoc. chair

### Full-time Faculty

Nathan Balsler  
Rachel Barker  
Shayla Bott  
Angela Rosales Challis  
Adam Dyer  
Jeanette Geslison

Keely Song Glenn

Curt Holman  
Amy Jex  
Brent Keck  
Kate Monson  
Ashley Parov  
Shani Robison

Marin Roper

Kori Wakamatsu  
Hilary Wolfley  
Jamie Kalama Wood

## CULTURAL DANCE FACULTY

### Full-time Faculty

Jeanette Geslison  
Amy Jex  
Jamie Kalama Wood

### Adjunct Faculty

Tamara Chamberlain  
Breanna Daniels  
Wendi Isaacson  
Rebecca Love  
Jacob Madsen  
Chante Stutznegger  
Greg Tucker

Maria Tucker

Kau'i Tuia  
Emilee Wright  
Cassidy Coffey  
Emma Giauque

### Student Instructors

Natasha Keckley  
Hannah Kooyman  
Adriana Cottle  
Katy Pedersen  
Claire Farnsworth

## DANCE MEDICINE AND WELLNESS

### Director

Brenda Critchfield

### Student Assistant Athletic

#### Trainers

Mariah Dawe-Johnson  
Carrie Pereyra

### Student Intern Athletic Trainers

Megan Meacham  
Paige Moore

## EXTERNAL RELATIONS, CREATIVE SERVICES, & BYU ARTS

### CFAC EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Melinda Semadeni, Assistant Dean  
Alyssa Anderson, Writer  
Savanna Shiman, Social Media Specialist  
Madeline Ramsey, Social Media Specialist  
Tran Die, Web Developer  
Seungyeol SB Baek, Web Developer  
Amanda Robins, Photographer

### CREATIVE SERVICES

Rex Kocherhans, Marketing Services Manager  
Isabella Olson, Graphic Designer  
Dylan Smith, Graphic Designer  
Ashlyn Lasson, Graphic Designer  
Nicole Clark, Graphic Designer  
Maria Camargo, Graphic Designer  
Hannah Gould, Social Media Specialist

Kimberly Moore, Social Media Specialist  
Kalli Roberts, Social Media Specialist  
Kacy Woodward, Office Assistant  
Sydney Foote, Office Assistant



## Stay Connected With Us...

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 reading the archived **The Folk Dancer** club newsletters. Where in the world have the folk dancers toured? Read those past tour histories, 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.

CHRISTMAS  
AROUND THE  
WORLD  
REJOICE!



<https://byufolkdancealumni.com/>

# 2022 SUMMER DANCE CAMPS AT BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

## International Folk Dance Camp: June 13–15, 2022

This summer, meet other kids from around the country and “travel the world” with the magic and music of international folk dancing taught by world dance experts! Enjoy fun activities with youth counselors from the BYU International Folk Dance Team, including a dance party, a trip to a water park, and a final dance performance!



[dancecamps.byu.edu](https://dancecamps.byu.edu)

**BYU** | YOUTH PROGRAMS  
CAMPS AND PROGRAMS THAT CHANGE LIVES



BYU DEPARTMENT OF DANCE PRESENTS

# CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD REJOICE!



**BYU**arts  
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BYU INTERNATIONAL  
FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE  
JEANETTE GESLISON,  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

TICKETS \$9-\$25

MARRIOTT CENTER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2021  
7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021  
2:00 P.M. & 7:30 P.M.