

Journey

Any wanderer will tell you that there is something magical about discovering new places and old traditions.

Journey is a 90-minute voyage of dance and music through the heartbeat of the world's cultures. In this show you will see Irish hard shoe, American clogging, Ukrainian Hopak, exotic Indian dances, and many more. The experience of the furious footwork, the pulsing rhythms, the live music, and the authentic costumes will leave you with a special kind of wanderlust.

So throw off the bowlines and catch the wind in your sails as our companion on this Journey.

Ukraine: Hutsulka

The Hutsul people inhabit the rather isolated southwest region of the Ukrainian Carpathian Mountains with their well preserved fast, vigorous, high-spirited dance and music rhythms. Occupations of the Hutsul people include shepherding, wood cutting and hunting and are reflected in the costumes worn.

Choreography: Colleen West

Music: Transcarpathian Suite, Traditional, The Hutsul Girl, Traditional, Recorded by *Ivano-Frankiv's Philharmonic Society*

England: Rapper Sword

The *Rapper Sword* dance of Northern England descends from ancient sword dances where human sacrifices were once offered. Look for spinning planets, eternal revolutions and the annual return of the sun.

Choreography: The London Folk Society, England

Music: Tenpenny Bit, Traditional, Top of Cork Road (Alfred Graves) Public Domain, Performed by *Mountain Strings*

Ireland: Slip Jig

A traditional dance in a 9/8 time signature, originally performed by men, but is now exclusively performed by women.

Choreography: Tina Shelley

Music: Soggy's (Sean Graham), Performed by *Mountain Strings*

Ireland: Ceilidh

A traditional Gaelic social gathering interspersed with a precision figure dance.

Choreography: Vitoria Leavitt & Michael Romney

Music: Cup of Tea, White Petticoat, Traditional, Performed by *Mountain Strings*

Ireland: Curse Reversed

Staging: Jeanette Geslison

Dance Soloist: Victoria Leavitt

Music: Hanneke Cassel, Performed by *Mountain Strings*

Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

USA: Texas Fandango

Texas Fandango reminds us of a time when men spent months away from family and loved ones, as they worked in the wild frontiers of the American West. Underneath a starlit sky, and in the privacy of their campfire, this theatrical characterization of the American Cowboy shows him at his dancin' best—stirrin' up a little dust.

Choreography: Delynne Peay

Music: Traditional, Performed by *Mountain Strings*

Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

USA: Calico Darlin'

The girls take their turn to show off their skills to the men and celebrate the joy of life.

Choreography: Michael Romney

Music: Traditional, Performed by *Mountain Strings*

Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

USA: Simple Love

Music: Sarah Siskind, Performed by *Mountain Strings*

Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

USA: Boot Kickin'

Country-western line and swing dancing includes many dance styles and traditional steps such as the cowboy cha-cha, two-step, vine, heel digs, lifts and spins. Influenced by the American cowboy culture, this type of dancing is also known as “kicker dancing” in Texas.

Choreography: Colleen West & Lyndsey Wulfenstein

Music & Lyrics: Mark Geslison, Performed by *Mountain Strings*

USA: Western Wildfire/Showdown

A precision style dance featuring both traditional clogging and the latest power tap steps, followed by a *Showdown*, a competition between the men and the women.

Choreography: Greg & Maria Tucker

Music: Western Wildfire, Performed by *Mountain Strings*

Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

USA: Papa's on the House Top

Music: Leroy Carr, Performed by *Mountain Strings*

Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

Turkey: Tides of Anatol

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

Choreography: Ahmet Luleci

Music: Heyamo, Recorded by *Biröl Topaloglu*, and Black Sea Medley, Traditional

Intermission

India: Pushpanjali

Pushpanjali – is a traditional invocatory piece in Bharatanatyam style, the oldest classical dance form from the southern part of India. *Pushpanjali* literally means offering of flowers to the almighty. The exquisite dance form called Bharatanatyam is more than 2000 years old. This dance combines facial expression through subtle eye movements, hand gestures and explosive rhythmic footwork to integrate mind, body and spirit. All classical dance forms are mostly based on Indian Hindu mythological stories.

Choreography: Divya Narayanan

Music: The Chase (Amit Heri; Mani Sharma), Recorded by *Gayathri* and Dance Like a Man (Ganesh Kumaresh), Recorded by *Ganesh Kumaresh*

India: Nagada Nagada

Bollywood, the famed film industry based in Mumbai, India, is characterized by flashy musical numbers, love triangles, and melodrama. The dancing in Bollywood films is rooted in traditional Indian dance, including Bharata Natyam and Bhangra, fused with Western dance styles. *Nagada Nagada* is the story of a young man attempting to win the heart of a beautiful girl.

Choreography: Greg & Sally Rawlings

Music: Nagada, Nagada (Pritam Chakraborty), Recorded by *Javed Ali & Sonu Nigam*

Bulgaria: The Gorgeous

This village scene represents Bulgaria with a foot in the past and the present. Modernization, industrialization, and urban migration bring inevitable changes that affects all countries. The message here is that, by accepting “modernity”, one need not lose one’s identity or one’s roots. This far-reaching message is about preserving and respecting the uniqueness of treasured traditions. One may also reflect on a larger message - that beauty without wisdom will eventually wither away.

Libretto and Choreography: Daniela Ivanova

Music: Kyril Vladov; Recorded by *Philip Koutev National Folklore Ensemble*

Hungary: Magyorok Táncok

From the county of Somogy in southwestern Hungary, the *Üveges & Botoló* dances belong to the dance dialect of “swineherds” and “jumping” dances. The use of props (such as bottles and sticks) was an integral part of this people’s lifestyle—the shepherds would use sticks, and the cooks worked with the bottles. Finally, an energetic piece from the *Szatmár* region fills the stage with one of Hungary’s most beloved traditional dances.

Choreography: Jeanette Geslison

Music: Traditional, Recorded by *the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble*

Musical Arrangement: Hungarian State Folk Ensemble

Vocals: International Folk Dance Ensemble, & BYU Men’s Chorus

Hungary: Gypsy

Music: Mark Geslison, Performed by *Mountain Strings*

Hungary: Férfi Mulatcság

From the same village of Mehkerék these men’s dances are much-loved. This slapping and clapping style with very intricate rhythmic patterns has become favored on the stage by numerous professional Hungarian dance ensembles.

Choreography: Gary Larsen

Music: Traditional, Performed by *Mountain Strings*

Spain: Latido del Corazón

Latido del Corazón, meaning “heartbeat,” belongs to the spirited Rumba Flamenca dance styles. Flamenco dances originate from Southern Spain with this particular style incorporating Cuban influences.

Choreography: Marisol Encinias

Music: Quireme (Jose Luis Figuereo), Performed by *Mountain Strings*

Puerto Rico: El Cumbanchero

Music: Rafael Hernández Marín, Performed by *Mountain Strings*

Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

Ireland: Irish Blessing

Lyrics: Traditional

Original Composition: Geoff Groberg

Ukraine: Hopak

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 spirit of this Ukrainian hallmark.

Choreography: Colleen West with Edwin G. Austin, Jr.

Music: Traditional, Recorded by *Intermountain Symphony Orchestra*

Musical Arrangement: Tyler Castleton and Daniel Lee

International Folk Dance Ensemble

Jason Allen

Taylor Haycock

Abram Allred

Michael Kim

Jason Checketts

Cameron King

Thomas Clements

Rebecca Kiser

Whitney DeMille

Victoria Leavitt

Zack Diamond

Tanner Long

Kylie Falke

Garett Madril

Will Farnbach

Sirie McCoy

Katie Farrenkopf

Jessa Miles

Katie Haddock

Sean Nicholes

Allison Jardine Oberle

Julilanna Sheffield

Nathan Pehrson

Amber Shepherd

Ariel Peterson

Wesley Valdez

Lauren Piperato

Amanda Welch

Jeanette Geslison, Director

Mountain Strings

Jacob Bagley

Mauresa Bastian

Lauren Bezzant

Gracy Dayton

Talmage Haines

Emilee Hardy

Sydney Keddington

Mark Geslison, Director

Brigham Young University

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