

# ***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: Volyn**

Dances from the Volyn Province of Ukraine are known for their flamboyance and demanding male and female technique. The rhythms of the music along with the brightness of the costumes display the energy and grace of this cultural art form.

**Choreography:** Myroslav Vantukh, Artistic Director of the P. Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company

**Re-staged:** Luba & Yuri Grekov

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

## **Wales: Cip Ar Gymru**

*Cip Ar Gymru* or *A Glance of Wales* provides a glimpse into the music and dance of the Welsh people. After almost 200 years of condemnation by nonconformist ministers, dancing almost vanished from Wales. Today it once again enjoys an enthusiastic following. This suite features Rali Twm Siôn, Mympw'r Etholiad, Hoffedd ap Hywel and Step y Gllocsen.

**Choreography:** Edwin G. Austin, Jr.

**Music:** Traditional, performed by *Mountain Strings*

**Musical Arrangement:** Geoff Groberg & Mark Geslison

**Republic of Ireland: Keltatak**

“*Women’s slip jig*” danced in a 9/8 time meter.

**Choreography:** Tina Shelley

**Music:** Soggy’s (Beoga), recorded by *Beoga*

“*Movement 3*” is a dazzling union of traditional movement, electrifying music, and dramatic staging in the bold style of Irish hard shoe step dancing.

**Choreography:** Johanna Lambert, Tina Shelley

**Music:** Bridge Attack (Bill Whelan), recorded by *Bill Whelan*

**USA: Pen of Love**

**Music:** When God Dips His Pen of Love in my Heart (Bobby Atkins & Ralph Hill), performed by *Mountain Strings*

**Musical Arrangement:** Mountain Strings

**USA: Footin’ & Fiddlin’**

A melting pot of percussive footwork from different cultures share the stage with *similar* but yet *different* technique and styles, are American Clogging, Welsh Clogging, Tap Dance, French Canadian Step Dancing and Irish Step Dancing. Each percussive footwork is unique in its own roots, but have now crossed paths in the fusion and dynamics of each rhythmic expression.

**Soloists:** Whitney Sorensen, Emily Kleinkopf, Amber Shepherd, Kaitlyn Gourley and Victoria Leavitt (listed in order of appearance).

**Choreography:** Colleen West

**Music:** Traditional, performed by *Mountain Strings*

**Musical Arrangement:** Mark Geslison

**USA: Orange Blossom Special**

**Music:** Ervin T. Rouse, performed by *Mountain Strings*

**Musical Arrangement:** Mark Geslison

**Romania: Szászcsávási Cigány Táncok**

Three Gypsy dances from Szászcsávás in Transylvania portray the vigor and passion of the Roma people. First, a men’s *Pontozó* – danced by very few Hungarians living in Romania anymore; however among the Gypsies the dance is still popular. Second, a men’s *Verbunk* – in Hungary it was traditionally danced as a solo dance, but then adapted by the Gypsies. Third, *Csingerálás* - a fast tempo couples dance in which the couples separate at times during the dance, being characteristic to the Gypsy style.

**Choreography:** Richard Balazs.

**Music:** Traditional, recorded by *Szászcsávás Band* and *Gyanta*

**ISRAEL: Eretz Hakodesh**

“*Land of Holiness*” is an expression of love for this refreshed desert land, its inhabitants, and their determination in life. It reflects the energy of today’s youth in Israel: young, spirited and vital.

“*Hevenu Shalom Alechem*” — “*Peace Be Unto You.*”

**Choreography:** Edwin G. Austin, Jr.

**Music:** Hevenu Shalom Alechem (Israel Goldfarb), Hora Mamtera, Shir Hachatuna (traditional (Israel Goldfarb)), recorded by *Geoff Groberg*

**Musical Arrangement:** Geoff Groberg

**USA: Leather Britches/Sleep On**

**Music:** Traditional, Sleep On (Nelson Mandrell), performed by *Mountain Strings*

**Musical Arrangement:** Mark Geslison & Mountain Strings

**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*

**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 Bharathanatyam 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*

**Slovak Republic: Lúčnica**

Lúčnica, *Forever Young*, best describes this suite of dances from Slovakia: *Verbunk*, *Syracovy*, and *Polka*. It also is the name of the *Slovak National Folklore Ballet*, our friends in Bratislava.

**Choreography:** Ervin Varga

**Restaged by:** Michael Romney

**Music:** Traditional, performed by *Mountain Strings*

**MACEDONIA: Što Mi E Milo**

**Music:** Traditional, performed by *Mountain Strings* and *Ensemble members*

**Musical Arrangement:** Mark Geslison

**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*

**Bulgaria: Danubian Suite**

Several traditional Northwest Bulgarian dance patterns were used to create this cheerful diversion. The movements represent the joy of youth, life, and dance, itself.

**Choreography:** Daniela Ivanova

**Music:** Shira, Izrouchanka, Gamzovyana (traditional); recorded by *Philip Koutev National Folklore Ensemble*

**Musical Arrangement:** Kyril Vladov

### **Hungary: Mehkereki Táncok**

Couple dancing, in the Carpathian basin, contains some of the most intricate variations in rhythms, figures and stylistic nuances. Here we showcase two couple dances from the Romanian-speaking village of Mehkereki inside southeastern Hungary.

**Choreography:** Jeanette Geslison

**Music:** Traditional, performed by *Mountain Strings*

### **Hungary: Férfi Mulatcság**

From the same village of Mehkereki 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*

### **People's Republic of China: Mo Li Hua**

**Mo Li Hua**, meaning *Jasmine*, is also a famous Chinese folk song. The flower, though not particularly beautiful, gives off a fragrance that gladdens the heart and refreshes the mind—symbolizing internal beauty and humility.

**Choreography:** Jiamin Huang

**Music:** Traditional, recorded by *Beijing Angelic Choir*

### **Ireland: DA**

**Music:** Donnell Leahy, performed by *Mountain Strings*

**Dance Soloists:** Alina Geslison & Victoria Leavitt

**Musical Arrangement:** Donnell Leahy & 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 and Edwin G. Austin, Jr.

**Music:** Traditional, recorded by *Intermountain Symphony Orchestra*

**Musical Arrangement:** Tyler Castleton and Daniel Lee