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# Fact Sheet

## FOLK MUSIC ENSEMBLE

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Brigham Young University

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- Brigham Young University's Folk Music Ensemble is a unique and talented musical group, made up of select musicians and vocalists who perform an energetic program of several types of American and international folk music.
- The Folk Music Ensemble toured in 2006 with the Folk Dance Ensemble throughout the Baltic States. They performed in various folk festivals in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, as well as the 25<sup>th</sup> annual festival in Drummondville, Quebec.
- The group is composed of seven talented instrumentalists and vocalists who sing and play a variety of traditional folk instruments including the fiddle, mandolin, banjo, dulcimer, guitar, harmonica, accordion, bass, and bodhran (a Celtic drum). Unique percussion instruments, such as bongos, bones, and spoons, keep the rhythm as the group performs.
- The BYU Folk Music Ensemble delivers a diverse program packed with fun. Some of the music styles it performs include Appalachian Folk, blues, bluegrass, Cajun, jazz, country, Celtic, French-Canadian and American New England styles, as well as other traditional, American music and dance arrangements.
- The group was originally formed in 1982 to accompany BYU's International Folk Dance Ensemble with live music on the dance ensemble's international tours. Currently, the Folk Music Ensemble performs shows to a variety of local audiences in addition to its performances with BYU's International Folk Dancers.
- In addition to performing folk music, the group enjoys educating its audiences about the history of the music it plays and the historic importance of the group's unique instruments.
- The Folk Music Ensemble toured independently for the first time in 1996, performing in Iceland and the Netherlands at various concerts and folklore festivals.
- The Folk Music Ensemble is directed by Mark Geslison of the BYU School of Music.
- The Folk Music Ensemble originates in the School of Music at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. BYU is one of the nation's largest private universities with over 30,000 students from the U.S. and over 130 foreign countries.