Story of Beginning

Storytellers Prologue

**MUSIC:** Sam Cardon

North America: Eagle

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Dusty Jansen and Bryan Jansen

The eagle, which flies highest and nearest to our Creator, is sacred to natives of North America. Embodying strength, courage, and wisdom, the eagle shows us that we have the ability to develop the same qualities. This specific Eagle dance honors the story of creation and beginning.

Go, My Son (Lullaby)

**MUSIC:** “Go, My Son,” by Carnes Burson and Arlene Nofchissey Williams; additional lyrics by Jamie Kalama Wood

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Jamie Kalama Wood

As young parents prepare their child to grow in this world, they sing of the hopes and expectations of generations past and present. Ancestors prepare to share their stories with the child as he develops throughout life.

Story of Celebration

Samoa Suite: Lota Nu’u, Sasa, Siva, and Slap

**MUSIC:** Traditional; “Sulu i le Papa Gagala,” by Punialava’a; and “Fa’ataupati,” by Alpha Maiava, mixed by DJ Dorps

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Teancum Kaitoku, Noelani Apelu, Lea Taylor, and Catherine Fonoimoana-Lessary Tu’ua

Our Samoan suite tells the story of celebration and a love for life as dancers sing the beautiful Lota Nu’u, keep time with the rousing Sasa, highlight the power and grace of the women through the Siva, and joyfully prove the agility of the men in the powerful Slap dance.
Ecuador: Cuenca

**MUSIC:** “Por Eso Te Quiero Cuenca,” by Carlos Ortíz Cobos

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Celia Aguayo, Mariah Matua, and Efrain Villalobos

“Por Eso Te Quiero Cuenca” is a contagious musical theme that tells the story of a festival that celebrates family, culture, and community. The beautiful song describes the people of Cuenca with one of its phrases: “Por sus longos bien parados, por sus cholas buenas mozas—por eso te quiero Cuenca.”

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**Story of Discovery**

**North America: Women’s Fancy**

**MUSIC:** “Hop to the Drop (Crow Hop)” and “Ripper,” by Northern Cree

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Cheyanne Elton

The women’s Fancy dance tells the story of the powerful crow and the emergence of the butterfly as they learn to stretch their wings and fly. As they take flight, they begin a new direction in life.

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**Hawaii: Kahiko**

**MUSIC:** “Ka Huaka’i o Hi’iaka” (traditional)

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Cy Bridges

This ancient Kahiko tells the story of Hi’iaka, the sister to the powerful fire goddess Pele. Hi’iaka is sent to discover someone Pele has seen in her dreams. In her travels, Hi’iaka opens her eyes to the beauty of the world.
Story of Pathway

North America Plains: Grass

**MUSIC:** Grey Hawk Singers

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Naakaii Tsosie, Naataanii Tsosie, and Cody Singer

As the men perform the Omaha Grass dance, the dancers imitate the movement of the tall, flowing, sweet grass—symbolizing the connection between humanity and nature. Their story is one of laying a pathway to keep safe those who follow.

Paraguay: El Pájaro Campana

**MUSIC:** “El Pájaro Campana,” by Damián Girett and Los Misioneros Paraguayos

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Eileen Araujo

“El Pájaro Campana,” named for the national bird of Paraguay, tells the story of liberty. In the mythology, Tupá (God) turned the bell tower of a Jesuit church into the white bird, whose sound resembles a bell. By following this bird, you will always know which way to go.

Story of Strength

Tahiti: Otea Aito

**MUSIC:** “Aue Kapaku,” by Te Vaka; and “Otea Aito,” by Tahiti Ora

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Teancum Kaitoku and Noelani Apelu

Tahitian dancers share the story of moving carefully along the pathway, knowing that learning the steps of life can sometimes feel treacherous. They find joy and love as they travel together.
**Peru: Festejo**

**MUSIC:** “Saca las Manos, Saca los Pies,” by Eva Ayllón  
**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Eliana Araujo

The Afro-Peruvian music and drums drive this energetic number. Originally danced by African slaves searching for relief from discrimination and exclusion, this particular choreography tells the story of a young girl who finds freedom as she learns to dance the Festejo.


**Story of Healing & Honor**

**North America: Jingle / Men’s Fancy**

**MUSIC:** “After You” and “Fearless,” by Northern Cree  
**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Cheyanne Elton and Naakaii Tsosie

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. In this number, Jingle dancers combine with the agile men’s Fancy dancers. Together they offer hope, strength, and healing to those who suffer.

**Bolivia: Caporales**

**MUSIC:** “Más Cerca del Cielo,” by Andesur  
**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Efrain Villalobos

The story of Caporales is one of celebrating the sacrifice of those who have gone before. In their honor, the caporales use their elaborate costume to represent the strength and pride that has grown from within.
New Zealand: Haka and Poi

**MUSIC:** “Te Wa o Tūmatauenga, He Korero Riri,” by Lionel Perrett

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Lionel Perrett

Carried on the wind of dawn come the voices of war and of supplication to Tūmatauenga, god of war, by both warrior and loved one. This story is of a village making preparations for battle. Through the powerful movement of the Haka and Poi, the challenge is issued: “We will not back down but will gain victory.”

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Story of Journey

Iroquois Suite: Stomp, War, Smoke, and Pigeon

**MUSIC:** Traditional recording by Bill Crouse

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Bill Crouse and Jamie Kalama Wood

As the dancers hear the call to battle, they rouse the village through the beat of the Stomp dance. The warriors prepare using the competitive War dance, and the energy builds as men and women join in the quick and athletic Smoke dance. As the warriors begin their journey, the women look forward with hope.

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Argentina: Malambo

**MUSIC:** Traditional bombos by Diego Franco

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Diego Franco and Pablo Daniel

The Malambo dancer is a master of footwork. Combining rhythm, agility, speed, and strength, dancers build upon the energy of the drum. Though traditionally performed as an all-male number, this powerful choreography tells the story that strength and agility are found in us all.
Story of Revelation

Hawaii: Auana

**MUSIC:** “Kuʻu Hoa Hiʻikua, Aia I Hiʻialo,” by Hiʻikua

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Sariah Mossman

This contemporary hula tells the story of farewell and separation between beloved friends as they are called away.

Aztec: Kuitlaxocotl Tlauli

**MUSIC:** “Aztec,” by Los Hermanos de los Andes

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Moises Aguirre

The Kuitlaxocotl Tlauli dance is a representation of the people of Aztlan, named the Aztecs. Their ritual sounds were considered the voice of the gods. Through their beautiful music and corporal movements, we experience the story of “the fruit of light,” reminding us to seek the light in times of darkness through Mother Earth and spiritual connection.

Story of Light

Navajo: Bow and Arrow, and Basket

**MUSIC:** “Santa Ana Bow and Arrow Dance,” by Ed Lee Natay; and “The Basket Song,” by Delphine Tsinajinnie and Ed Lee Natay

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Jerad Todacheenie and Dion Tapahe

By honoring the stories of past warriors, this dance reverences the bow and arrow for providing sustenance and protection. As the dancers face different corners, they keep the balance of the four sacred directions. They are admonished to “dance in beauty.”
**Tonga: LakaLaka o Siosefa Samita, and Tata’ili**

**MUSIC:** “LakaLaka o Siosefa Samita,” by Tevita Muli Kinikini; and “Tata’ili,” by Teine Latu

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Tevita Muli Kinikini and Family

With words and actions, the graceful dancers tell their story of devotion. This story celebrates the miracles and the blessings that have been received from heaven. After receiving these blessings, the people rejoice. Ultimately, all are invited to “come and hear our story.”

**Mexico: Jalisco**

**MUSIC:** “El Relampago,” by Mariachi Aztlán; and “El Son de la Negra” (traditional)

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Miguel Angel Peña

These energetic dances from the state of Jalisco capture the soul of México. The powerful and patriotic movements tell the story of grace and elegance combined with power and love for one’s home.

**North America: Hoop**

**MUSIC:** “Hoop Song,” by Albert Chase

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Kelina Anderson and Kiona Lucio

The hoop symbolizes eternity to many nations. As a child learns to dance the Hoop dance, they begin with only one hoop until, over time, they master many hoops. As they do, dancers learn to share the creations of Mother Earth and the power of the Great Spirit through their dance.
Finale

**MUSIC:** “Go, My Son,” by Carnes Burson and Arlene Nofchissey Williams; additional lyrics by Jamie Kalama Wood

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Jamie Kalama Wood

As the child becomes the parent, he continues to be taught by the ancestors. He hears the words once spoken by a wise chief—teaching that family, honor, work, and education are the keys to success and happiness.
PERFORMERS

Alec Ahlstrom
Latin America Section
Firestone, CO
Marketing

Kelina Anderson
Native American Section
Spanish Fork, UT
Art History and Curatorial Studies

Stephanie Aragundi Ka’ahanui
Latin American Section
Morristown, NJ
Communications

Solana Armitage
Native American Section
Glendale, AZ
Dance

Lawrence Brown
Polynesian Section
Bountiful, UT
Family Studies

Candace Contreras
Latin American Section
Tucson, AZ
Journalism

Marypaz Cuessy
Native American Section
Whittier, CA
Civil Engineering

Samuel Cuessy
Native American Section
Whittier, CA
Civil Engineering

Amanda Dominguez
Latin American Section
Sachse, TX
Biology

Ronnie Efnor
Polynesian Section
Mesa, AZ
Art Education

Cheyanne Elton
Native American Section
Vista, CA
Media Arts Studies

Kalawai’a Fano
Polynesian Section
Kāne‘ohe, HI
Manufacturing Engineering
PERFORMERS

(continued)

Justin Keanu Furtado
Polynesian Section
Papakōlea, HI
Communications

Mario Gamez Carillo
Latin American Section
Chihuahua, Mexico
Civil Engineering

Kenneth Garcia
Latin American Section
Mapleton, UT
Advertising

Kamailelani Grace
Polynesian Section
Pearl City, HI
Experience Design and Management

Ammon Ho
Native American Section
Laie, HI
Sociocultural Anthropology

Tallin Kaitoku
Polynesian Section
Laie, HI
Marketing

Teancum Kaitoku
Polynesian Section
Laie, HI
Psychology

JRay Kuhn
Native American Section
San Carlos, CA
Nursing

Benjamin Lopez
Latin American Section
Provo, UT
Archeology

Camila Losik
Native American Section
Layton, UT
Psychology

Kawai Lucio
Native American Section
Gilbert, AZ
Exercise Science

Kiona Lucio
Native American Section
Gallup, NM
Exercise Science
PERFORMERS
(continued)

Leiana’ala Morse
Polynesian Section
Kailua, HI
Communications

Sariah Mossman
Polynesian Section
Pukalani, HI
Sociology

Karly Nikora
Polynesian Section
Laie, HI
Psychology

Abish Olvera
Latin American Section
Pflugerville, TX
Human Development

Sariah Olvera
Latin American Section
Pflugerville, TX
Spanish Translation

Fernando Ramos
Latin American Section
La Paz, Bolivia
Finance

Jadyn Tahana Roberts
Polynesian Section
Orem, UT
Open Major

Savanna Silversmith
Native American Section
Blanding, UT
Psychology

Chaylene Tauati
Polynesian Section
Torrance, CA
Psychology

Camilla Urrea
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Austin, TX
Music Dance Theatre

Efrain Villalobos
Latin American Section
Mapleton, UT
Communications
Artistic Director
Jamie Kalama Wood

Technical Director
Kevin Anthony

TECHNICAL TEAM

Jennifer Saldana
Stage Manager

Elizabeth Padgett
Audio Technician

Brian Saydyk
Lighting Technician

Nalea Nitta
Costumes and Deck Crew

Taj Joaquin
Costumes and Deck Crew

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Living Legends
Celebrating 50 years of inspiring performances, Living Legends presents their new show, Storytellers, a depiction of a young man as he is guided through life by the stories of his ancestors, told through their music and dance. As the talented performers take the stage, they capture the rhythms of Polynesia, portray the fascinating legends of Native America, and dazzle the senses with the energy of Latin America. The group’s lavish attire and intricate choreography are authentic representations of the showcased cultures.

Brigham Young University
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