

## **International Folk Dance Ensemble**

Combining ethnic traditions with exquisite costuming, Brigham Young University's International Folk Dance Ensemble showcases the dance styles of the world and features the traditions of the United States at international folklore festivals.

Over the past decade, the Ensemble has visited 29 countries spanning four continents. As an emissary of the United States and American traditions, the group has become internationally famous at the most prestigious folk dance festivals abroad, where it performs with many of the world's finest dance companies. The Ensemble was founded in 1956 and celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2006, visiting the Baltic States and the *Mondial des Cultures de Drummondville*, an international folk dance festival held in Drummondville, Quebec, Canada.

The troupe boasts 40 musicians, singers, dancers, and technicians, who combine to form one of the most unique groups of performing artists in the United States. IFDE's musical ensemble, Mountain Strings, not only provides accompaniment for the dancers but also performs show-stopping traditional music.

The International Folk Dance Ensemble and Mountain Strings originate in the Department of Dance and School of Music in the College of Fine Arts and Communications at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, USA. BYU was founded in 1875 by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and is now one of the nation's largest private universities with an enrollment of 30,000 students from throughout the United States and 110 foreign countries.

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