



## News Release

2019-20 Season

## International Folk Dance Ensemble

Performing Arts Management  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## International Folk Dance Ensemble takes one on a journey...

There is something magical about discovering, experiencing, and celebrating cultures and their traditions. Through folk dance and music, International Folk Dance Ensemble brings that exploring fun onto the stage in their 90-minute show, *Journey*. Performing dances and music from around the world, this ensemble fills the stage with colors, rhythm, and history.

*Journey* is a voyage of dance and music through the heartbeat of the world's cultures. In this show, you will see dances ranging from Irish hard shoes, American clogging, Ukrainian Hopak, exotic Indian dances, and much more. It is a kaleidoscope of furious footwork, pulsing rhythms, live music, and authentic costumes radiating the magic from across the globe.

So throw off the bowlines and catch the wind in your sails as our companion on this journey. Join us at (PLACE) on (DATE) at (TIME).



## International Folk Dance Ensemble

International Folk Dance Ensemble has recently celebrated their 60th anniversary as a performing arts group. Throughout the past 60 years, the ensemble has traveled throughout the world performing traditional dances selected from a wide variety of cultures. The group continues to dazzle audiences with their eye-catching costumes, diverse dance selections, and captivating performances.

In conjunction with their lively routines, the dance ensemble is accompanied by the highly versatile and highly acclaimed acoustic band Mountain Strings. These musicians provide live, engaging music that is every bit the dancers' equal in complexity, skill, and professionalism. The musicians demonstrate such extraordinary talent that their performance could be a show unto itself.

Since 1964, International Folk Dance Ensemble has toured all over the world, representing many cultures. The group has become internationally famous at the world's most prominent folk dance festivals, where they perform with many of the best international dance companies. The group has represented both BYU and the U.S. as the American Folk Dance Ensemble in folk festivals.

The ensemble will travel to China this summer as part of the BYU Spectacular in China. While there, the ensemble will perform in Beijing, Xi'an, and Shanghai along with 6 other BYU performing and entertainment groups. The ensemble traveled to Belgium, France, and Poland in the summer of 2018. They performed for audiences in France and performed in the Hello!Schoten folk festival in Schoten, Belgium and the Eurofolk festival in Zamość, Poland. In 2017, the group also went to Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand for their extended tour. The group had the opportunity to help many causes during their tour by donating the proceeds of their show and also worked with other universities where they taught and learned folk dances.

"A touring production of this size and scope is a rare treasure among academic institutions," says Jeanette Geslison, artistic director of the ensemble. "The time, talent, and resources that go into making this possible are immense. The student performers are enriched as they are immersed in cultural exchange, life-long learning, and service in addition to their professional academic careers."



## Artistic Director

Working behind the scenes of International Folk Dance Ensemble's dazzling showcase of music and dance from around the world is artistic director Jeanette Geslison. Geslison is from Odense, Denmark where she was trained in classical ballet, jazz, and theater. She attended Brigham Young University and performed with the ensemble from 1987 to 1991, and again from 1993 to 1994. Geslison has strong ties with the group; she coordinated and directed program ensemble classes and has been a rehearsal specialist with International Folk Dance Ensemble since 1995.

The show *Journey* gives the audience the experience of being a wanderer through the heartbeat of the world's cultures. "The essence of what we want to tell the audience is that in the past you really had to 'journey' to visit other cultures," explains Geslison. "Now we kind of live right next door."

Geslison's goal for International Folk Dance Ensemble is that they continue to thrill audiences across the world with their youthful enthusiasm and talent as they portray cultural folk dance and music. "We play an important role in shaping and defining the future of traditional dance by giving voice to the past and present," Geslison said. "The students love to be a part of this group and they give their all to make it the best experience possible."

International Folk Dance Ensemble originates in the Department of Dance of the College of Fine Arts and Communications at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. BYU is one of the nation's largest private universities with an enrollment of 30,000 students from throughout the United States and 100 foreign countries.





## Upcoming Performances

**Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm**  
Four Rivers Cultural Center  
Ontario, OR

**Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 7:00 pm**  
To Be Announced  
Bend, OR

**Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 7:00 pm**  
LaSells Stewart Center, Austin Auditorium  
Carvallis, OR

**Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm**  
Central (Spiegelberg) High School  
Medford, OR

**Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm**  
To Be Announced  
Portland, OR

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