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# News Release

FOLK MUSIC ENSEMBLE

April 2014

Brigham Young University

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**Artistic Director**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Under the direction of Mark Geslison, the Brigham Young University Folk Music Ensemble strives to revive the good ole' days of rustic living with the sounds of fiddles, banjos, mandolins, and many more delightful instruments.

Since 1992, Geslison has led the ensemble, bringing traditional music alive to elementary school assemblies and local and regional audiences on tours all over the U.S. and abroad. The ensemble has performed with the Folk Dance Ensemble since the 1960s, traveling to every continent (except Antarctica) and almost 100 countries. Geslison's students have since performed in Europe, the Middle East, South America, North America and Asia.

In addition to the formal education he received at Brigham Young University, Geslison feels fortunate to have gained 15 years of additional education through extensive worldwide travel and through his work with many talented individuals. Geslison became part of the BYU School of Music faculty in 1992. Since then, he has seen the Folk Music Ensemble grow and deepen from its humble beginnings to an ensemble in high demand.

Geslison has won several guitar and mandolin state championships since the 1980s. His students have also won many top honors at numerous events around the country. He now directs an annual state ensemble championship held in Provo, Utah, that is open to ensembles of all types and ages.

Since 1998, Geslison has authored 18 books and 19 recordings. He was awarded a Pearl Award and a Best of State medal in 2005 for his collaborative work with Geoff Groberg titled "Emma's Hymns." This is a recording of Christian hymns that date back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. He won a second Best of State award in 2007 for his work in music education outreach through his private foundation, the Institute of American Music Foundation. Geslison's other businesses include the for-profit sister company, [www.instituteforamericanmusic.com](http://www.instituteforamericanmusic.com). This is an online

(more)

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**Management**

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company that distributes numerous titles by Mark Geslison. The products are based in music education. Geslison is currently a partner in a company that produces and distributes music products for the clinical and therapy market throughout the U.S. He is married to Jeanette, a member of the BYU dance Department faculty. He has three children; Alina, Isaac and Ellie Anna.

The BYU Folk Music Ensemble originates in the School of Music in 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 more than 30,000 students from the U.S. and over 130 foreign countries.

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