



News Release

2018-19 Season

Mountain Strings

Performing Arts Management
801-422-3576 | pam.byu.edu



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(To get the text version of this file, visit pam.byu.edu/folk-music-ensemble)

Mountain Strings brings a variety of rhythm and instruments

When the talented musicians of Brigham Young University's Mountain Strings play their instruments, the air comes alive with sounds of good, old-fashioned fun. With energetic performances featuring American and international folk music, Mountain Strings plays their way into the hearts of audiences around the world. Also a part of Folk Dance Ensemble, Mountain Strings brings the best of live entertainment.

Either touring on their own or with their dance counterpart, Mountain Strings has traveled the world to folk festivals and beyond. Wherever they go, they remind people of the magic and the talent of different cultures and eras. If it's a bluegrass tune or a Celtic song, don't miss the chance to see this group at (place) on (date) at (time).



Mountain Strings

Mountain Strings is composed of seven talented instrumentalists, who also double as vocalists, who perform with a variety of traditional folk instruments such as the fiddle, mandolin, banjo, dulcimer, guitar, piano, bass, accordion; unique percussion instruments, including cajón, bones, spoons, and bodhrán (a Celtic drum), keep the rhythm as the ensemble performs. The group was originally formed in 1982 to accompany BYU's International Folk Dance Ensemble with live music on international tours. Now, in addition to supporting the dance ensemble, Mountain Strings also performs for a variety of local audiences.

Mountain Strings delivers a program brimming with excitement and variety. It performs musical styles ranging from Appalachian Folk, Celtic, French-Canadian, to Bluegrass, Cajun and Gypsy Jazz. In addition to performing, the group enjoys educating its audiences about the history of the music it plays and the historic importance of the unique instruments.

Most recently Mountain Strings accompanied International Folk Dance Ensemble (IFDE) on their 2017 extended tour to Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand. In 2018, the music group once again joined IFDE on an extended tour to France, Poland, and Belgium where Mountain Strings performed at festivals in Schoten, Belgium and Zamość, Poland.

Mountain Strings is directed by Mark Geslison of the School of Music 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 about 100 foreign countries.



Artistic Director

Under the direction of Mark Geslison, Brigham Young University's Mountain Strings 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 live traditional music to regional and international audiences all over the world. The ensemble has performed with Folk Dance Ensemble since the 1960s, traveling to most continents, covering almost 100 countries.

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 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.

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 19th 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.institutefofamericanmusic.com. This is an online company that distributes numerous titles by Mark Geslison. The products are based in music education. He is married to Jeanette, who is the director of the International Folk Dance Ensemble. He has three children; Alina, Isaac and Ellie Anna.



Upcoming Performances

November 30, 2018 at 7:30 pm and December 1, 2018 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Christmas Around the World

Marriot Center, Brigham Young University

Provo, Utah

December 12, 2018 at 7:30 pm

Madsen Recital Hall

Harris Fine Arts Center, Brigham Young University

Provo UT

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Mountain Strings
originates in the School of Music at
Brigham Young University in Provo,
Utah.