Fact Sheet

FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

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- The BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble (IFDE) offers one of the broadest spectrums of folk dance performed by a single group of its kind. Its extensive repertoire includes music and dance from North America, Western and Eastern Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

- Under the artistic direction of Jeanette Geslison, the ensemble has achieved an international reputation of professionalism throughout the United States and in more than 40 countries worldwide. The troupe is one of the most sought-after ensembles to represent American folk culture at international folk festivals.

- The IFDE's repertoire includes traditional dances from the Ukraine, the United States, China, Ireland, Mexico, Romania, Hungary, and India.

- This summer the ensemble will travel to Europe to perform in three international folk festivals;
    - The International Folklore Festival — Karlovac, Croatia
    - 'Ciudad de Burgos' International Folkloric Festival — Burgos, Spain
    - Extremadura Festival — Badajoz, Spain

- IFDE features 46 dancers, musicians, and technicians who combine to form one of the most unique groups of performing artists in the United States. The performers, all students of Brigham Young University, study a variety of academic disciplines.

- *Mountain Strings*, IFDE's folk music ensemble under the direction of Mark Geslison, provides the magic of live music for the group. Its traditional approach to music includes the banjo, the fiddle, and other acoustical instruments. Specializing in American, French-Canadian, and Celtic styles of music, the distinct sounds of spoons, bones, and bodhrans add percussive variety.

- The group's most recent performance tour in 2013 took them to California, Nevada, Texas and Illinois, where they held many public performances and outreach workshops.

- During the summer of 2011, under the name of the American Folk Dance Ensemble, the group traveled to Europe and participated in the Danube Carnival International Folk Festival in Budapest, Hungary, and the Zlatna Sopela International Festival in Porec, Croatia.

- The ensemble performed at the Opening Ceremonies and at the Olympic Medals Plaza for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. In 1988, the group also performed in the Seoul, Korea Summer Olympic Games.

- Founded in 1956, BYU's folk dance program is currently the largest and most versatile program of its kind in the United States. Members of IFDE are chosen by audition from among the most skilled performers in a program involving more than 200 students.

- The Folk Dance Ensemble originates in the Department of Dance of the College of Fine Arts and Communications at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.