



Repertoire

2017-18 Season

International Folk Dance Ensemble

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

Journey

Any wanderer will tell you that there is something magical about discovering new places and old traditions.

Journey is a 90-minute voyage of dance and music through the heartbeat of the world's cultures. In this show you will see Irish hard shoe, American clogging, Ukrainian hopak, exotic Southeast Asian and Indian dances, and much more. Experiencing the ensemble's furious footwork, pulsing rhythms, live music, and authentic costumes will leave you with a special kind of wanderlust.

So throw off the bowlines and catch the wind in your sails as our companion on this Journey.

China: Red and Green

In China the color red represents celebration and green represents new birth. In northwest China young women and young men dance with fans to depict their happiness and hope for the future.

Choreography: Jiamin Huang

Music: "Spring Festival Overture," by Li Huanzhi; recorded by China National Centre for the Performing Arts Orchestra

Haiti: Papa Loko

An African-based dance celebrating Yemoja, the goddess of water, "Papa Loko" is performed to music derived from Vodou religious culture and includes motifs of water and waves. Important to West African slaves who were taken across the ocean to the New World, water sustains life and offers hope.

Choreography: Gary Larsen

Restaging: Emily Hatch

Music: "Papa Loko—Rara Papiyon," traditional; recorded by Sångensemblen Amanda

Ireland: A Lovely Madness

This suite of dances features the lyrical beauty of the women's slip jig danced in 9/8 time, followed by a light jig danced in 6/8 time presenting the strength of the men. The energetic soft- and hard-shoe double reel finish the suite, typifying the precision and formations of Irish figure dancing.

Choreography: Tara Reid-O'Brien

Music: "Mister Molly's," by Beoga; and "Fiddler's Despair," by Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy; performed by Mountain Strings

Soloist: Victoria Ringer

USA: Pen of Love

Music: "When God Dips His Pen of Love in My Heart," by Cleavant Derricks; performed by Mountain Strings

USA: Boot Kickin'

Country-western line and swing dancing includes the cowboy cha-cha, the two-step, the vine, heel digs, lifts, and spins. Influenced by the American cowboy culture, this type of dancing is also known as "kicker dancing" in Texas.

Choreography: Colleen West, Lyndsey Wulfenstein, and Garrett Madril
Music: Based on “Fake ID,” by Big & Rich; performed by Mountain Strings
Lyrics: Mark Geslison

USA: Percussive Thunder

The intricate and percussive sounds of Appalachian clogging combine with traditional American music as an energetic and playful competition unfolds on stage.

Choreography: Greg Tucker

Music: “Little Liza Jane,” traditional; “Dueling Banjos,” by Arthur Smith; and “In the Sally Gardens,” traditional; performed by Mountain Strings

Musical arrangement: Mark Geslison

USA: Charleston

The Charleston dance craze of the 1920s was popularized by the rhythms of James P. Johnson’s tune “The Charleston.” It was made popular in Harlem and on stages worldwide.

Choreography: Colleen West with Emily Kleinkopf

Music: “Five Foot Two,” by Ray Henderson; performed by Mountain Strings

Musical arrangement: Mark Geslison

USA: Ida Red

Music: “Ida Red” and “Forked Deer,” traditional; performed by Mountain Strings

Musical arrangement: Mark Geslison

USA: Suzy

American clogging lands on the contemporary stage in an exciting fusion of dance styles. This is “thoroughly modern” clogging.

Choreography: Greg Tucker and Maria Tucker

Music: “Suzy,” by Caravan Palace; performed by Mountain Strings

USA: Orange Blossom Special

Music: “Orange Blossom Special,” by Ervin T. Rouse; performed by Mountain Strings

Musical arrangement: Mark Geslison

India: Nagada, Nagada

Bollywood, the famed film industry based in Mumbai, India, is characterized by flashy musical numbers, love triangles, and melodrama. The dancing in Bollywood films is rooted in traditional Indian dance, including bharata natyam and bhangra, fused with Western dance styles. “Nagada, Nagada” is the story of a young man attempting to win the heart of a beautiful girl.

Choreography: Greg Rawlings and Sally Rawlings

Music: “Nagada, Nagada,” by Pritam Chakraborty; recorded by Javed Ali and Sonu Nigam

INTERMISSION

Indonesia: Saman

This dance form originates from the Gayo people of Aceh Province in northern Sumatra. Traditionally performed for national or religious celebrations, these dances unify villages. The Saman dance tradition includes live singing by the performers, with lyrics that tell folktales to give counsel or offer spiritual enlightenment. Often referred to as the “dance of a thousand hands,” the dancers sit in a long line and produce shifting rhythms with their hands.

Choreography: Rustin Van Katwyk

Music: "Hai Jala" and "Hayla Hotsa," traditional; performed by International Folk Dance Ensemble, with drums by Jake Goehring

Mexico: La Bruja

This is a traditional dance from the state of Veracruz. According to an ancient Mexican legend, "La Bruja" ("The Enchantress") tells the story of a grieving mother who, with a candle atop her head to illuminate the way, searches for her lost children.

Choreography: Jeanette Geslison

Music: "La Bruja," by Tlen Huicani; recorded by Tlen Huicani

Mexico: Veracruz Espectacular

The music and dance of Veracruz blends Spanish, African, and Caribbean rhythms. Old is made new, including the timeless la bamba wedding dance.

Choreography: Miguel Peña

Music: Traditional

Slovakia: Lúčnica

"Lúčnica" ("Forever Young") best describes this suite of dances from Slovakia: verbunk, syracovy, and karička. It is also the name of the Slovak National Folklore Ballet, the BYU ensemble's friends in Bratislava.

Choreography: Ervin Varga

Music: Traditional; performed by Mountain Strings and Allyssa Pehrson

Romania: Gypsy

Music: "Gypsy," by Mark Geslison; performed by Mountain Strings

Spain: Latido del Corazón

Meaning "heartbeat," "Latido del Corazón" belongs to the spirited rumba flamenca dance style, which incorporates both Spanish and Cuban influences.

Choreography: Marisol Encinias

Music: "Quiéreme," by José Luis Figuereo; performed by Mountain Strings

Hungary: Rábaközi Lakodalmas

This representation of a Hungarian wedding depicts the traditions of a Rábaköz village procession, a men's verbunk dance, and the well-loved couples' csárdás.

Choreography: Jeanette Geslison

Music: Traditional; recorded by Dűvő

Hungary: Élő Fény

These men's dances from the village of Méhkerék are much loved. The slapping and clapping style with very intricate rhythmic patterns has become favored by professional Hungarian dance ensembles.

Choreography: Gary Larsen

Music: Jaw harp by Isaac Geslison

Ukraine: Poltavskyi Duet

Couples compete for prominence in this lively contest.

Choreography: Richard Wacko

Music: Traditional

Ireland: Irish Blessing

Lyrics: Traditional

Original composition: Geoff Groberg

Ukraine: Hopak

Recognized as the national dance of Ukraine, hopak was performed exclusively by men in the 15th and 16th centuries during the famous Cossack period. By the 19th century, women had become a regular part of the dance, adding to the spirit of this Ukrainian hallmark.

Choreography: Colleen West with Edwin G. Austin Jr.

Music: Traditional; recorded by Intermountain Symphony Orchestra

Musical arrangement: Tyler Castleton and Daniel Lee

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