



# Repertoire

## 2021-22 Season

## International Folk Dance Ensemble

Performing Arts Management

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### Journey

*Journey: Reflections shares strength from the past through traditional music and dance. Join the dancers for 90 minutes as they portray cultures from all over the world. Experiencing the ensemble's furious footwork, pulsing rhythms, live music, and vibrant costumes will leave you with a special kind of wanderlust. Through a variety of dances—American clogging, Irish soft shoe, Indian bhangra, Ukrainian hopak, and more—Journey: Reflections invites all to look back and reflect on the path that has shaped us into who we are today and to find unity in differences. Despite their diverse appearances, the dances exemplify how we all have the same human experiences. Let's commit to reach out in wonder as we reflect together.*

### Opener: Reflections

#### USA: Traveler

As settlers on the American frontier, our ancestors believed in working hard and playing hard. This rendition of a turn-of-the-century celebration displays the enthusiasm and freedom that helped build the character of the USA

#### USA: Big Blue Showdown

“Big Blue Showdown” portrays the excitement and energy of American clogging. Traditional dance elements featured include hoedowns, partner circle dances, large circle dances, grand progressions, and conteststoshow off the fanciest footwork. “Big Blue Showdown” will have you tapping your toes and clapping your hands to recognizable traditional tunes.

#### Ireland: Celtic Rock

Showcasing both Irish hard-shoe and soft-shoe styles, this medley features a treble jig, a soft-shoe reel, and a treble reel in both traditional and show performance styles.

#### Ireland: St. Anne's Reel

#### Romania: Călușul

Căluș is a ritual dance with origins dating back to Roman times, performed each spring between Easter and Pentecost, primarily in southern Romania. The Călușari are oath-bound men who travel from house to house to bless people and crops for the upcoming year. They dance over children and sick people to cure illness and promote health, and each courtyard ritual ends with a village hora. They wear red to ward off the evil eye and use the sound of bells and spurs to frighten away evil spirits, called iele.

**Romania: Plaiuri Oltenești**

These two vigorous women's dances, "Sârba pe Loc" and "Hora și Mereul," hail from the region of Oltenia

**Wales: Dawns y Gloesen**

"Dawns y Gloesen" is a light-hearted clog dance featuring young lads performing on and around wooden platforms. It was common to see young men in the local taverns dancing on tables to produce livelier sounds than could be made from the earthen floor.

**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.

**India: Pushpanjali**

"Pushpanjali" is a traditional invocatory piece in Bharatanatyam style, the oldest classical dance form from the southern part of India. The word *pushpanjali* literally means "offering of flowers to the almighty." More than 2,000 years old, this exquisite dance form combines facial expression, subtle eye movements, hand gestures, and explosive rhythmic footwork to integrate mind, body, and spirit. Most classical dance forms are based on Hindu mythological stories.

**India: Bhangra**

Traditionally a men's Punjabi harvest dance accompanied by the infectious rhythm of the dhol drum, bhangra is now danced at celebrations, performances, and competitions worldwide. This work includes the traditional wooden sappa.

**India: Discowale**

Bollywood, the famed film industry based in Mumbai, India, is characterized by elaborate music numbers, love triangles, and melodrama. This dance style combines traditional Indian dance with Western movement such as hip-hop.

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE****Serbia: Igre iz Šumadije**

The central region of Šumadija is considered to be the heartland of Serbia. Known for its rolling hills, dense forests, and fruit orchards, its pastoral landscapes have heavily influenced the cultural lifestyle. This representation is set in a village square where the young men and women gather to dance with the Kolo musicians.

**Macedonia: Makedonsko Devojče****Canada: Burnt River Jig**

With its complex footwork, Ottawa Valley step dancing is in a sense Ontario's version of tap and Irish dance. "Burnt River Jig" shows the community and jam aspects of the dance style as seen at fiddle-and-step-dance competitions. Step dancers in Ontario generally do "the famous four" steps featured in this piece. Accompanying the dance are three tunes by Ontario native Brian Pickell.

## **Canada: David's Jig**

## **China; Children of Snow Mountain**

The faraway snowcapped mountains of Tibet stand unpolluted above the plateau. Freshly fallen snow—so clean, so pure, so free—inspires the children to embrace simplicity and kindness in their hearts

## **Tonga: Fotu'i**

The traditional tau'olunga dance is performed at special occasions, such as weddings, birthdays, fundraisers, and reunions. Most often performed by an individual young woman or a small group of girls, the tau'olunga emphasizes hand movements to tell a story. Family members and friends may place money onto the dancer's oiled skin or tuck it into her dress and continue to clap to the rhythm of the music. The Tongan tau'olunga is a beautiful tradition, still practiced today.

## **USA: The Breakaway Bug**

This Lindy-style tap dance harkens back to the jazz age.

## **USA: Jump Jive an' Wail**

The Lindy hop combines jazz, tap, breakaway, and Charleston dance styles. Originating in Harlem, New York, in the 1920s, it crossed racial boundaries as both Black and White dancers came together at the integrated Savoy Ballroom. The dance was named after Charles Lindbergh, the famous American aviator who "hopped" across the Atlantic. Dancers build upon a basic swing step and improvise as they solo and partner freely. Get ready for some fast-paced fun with flips, spins, and, of course, hops!

## **USA: King of the Road**

## **Ireland: Irish Blessing**

## **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 vivacious spirit of this Ukrainian hallmark.

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