



BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
INTERNATIONAL FOLK
DANCE ENSEMBLE

presents

JOURNEY
REFLECTIONS

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Journey: Reflections shares strength from the past and the present 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 step dance, Indian folk fusion, 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

Poland: Oberek

Oberek and *kujawiak* are two of Poland's five national dances. *Oberek* is a vibrant couple dance which is balanced here with the romantic *kujawiak* couple dance.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Jeanette Geslison

MUSIC: "Poznński Oberek," "Wesele w Jezioranach," and "Wczesne Popołudnie" (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings

Brazil: Bailares Gaúchos

This exciting medley of Brazilian gaucho dances begins with *tirana do lenço*, a courtship dance originally from 18th-century Spain that conveys a lady's gradual acceptance of her suitor's romantic advances. This is followed by a men's *chula*, a percussive dance performed with a spear, which arose from competitions among cattle drivers on the road from Rio Grande do Sul to São Paulo. The medley concludes with the cheerful *rancheira de carreirinha*, a 19th-century social dance that grew from the European waltz and mazurka, infused with exciting Brazilian rhythms.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Mateus Arruda Antunes

MUSIC: "Tirana do Lenço" (traditional), recorded by Leandro Berlesi;
"Chula" (traditional), recorded by Ricardo Bergha and Gabriel Maculan;
"Rancheira de Carreirinha" (traditional), recorded by Leandro Berlesi

USA: Orphan Girl

MUSIC: "Orphan Girl" (Gillian Welch); performed by Mountain Strings
MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT: Mark Geslison and Mountain Strings

Canada: Attache ta Tuque!

Using a variety of step dancing from eastern Canada—Ottawa Valley, Cape Breton, and Quebecois styles—this lively fusion of historical and contemporary music and dance revels in complexity and playfulness.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Gary Larsen

MUSIC: "Shoot the Moon" (Ten Strings and a Goat Skin);
performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT: Mark Geslison



Philippines: Mabuhay!

A Filipino greeting, “*mabuhay!*” means “to live!” or “long live!” This dance medley begins with *sayaw sa bangko*, where dancers perform exciting movements while trying to balance on narrow benches. This is followed by the national dance of the Philippines, *tinikling*, where dancers imitate the movement of the tinikling bird as they dance between bamboo sticks. Here’s to life: mabuhay!

CHOREOGRAPHY: Tana Bybee

MUSIC: “Sayaw Sa Bangko” (traditional), recorded by RCLA;
“Tinikling” (traditional)

USA: Dancin’ in the Country

Showcasing the current power tap style of American clogging mixed with traditional figures and footwork, this dance ends with a celebration of the fun that clogging brings.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Greg Tucker and Maria Tucker

MUSIC: “Dancin’ in the Country” (Tyler Hubbard), “Blues Berry Hill” (Nitty Gritty Dirt Band), and “Cuckoo’s Nest” (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT: Mark Geslison

Canada: Volcanic Jig

This Cape Breton fiddle piece conveys traditional style with vibrancy and excitement.

MUSIC: “Volcanic Jig” (Natalie MacMaster); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT: Mark Geslison and Mountain Strings





India: Pushpanjali

“Pushpanjali” is a traditional invocatory piece in *bharatanatyam* style, the oldest classical dance form from the southern part of India. Most classical dance forms are based on Hindu mythological stories. The word *pushpanjali* literally means “offering 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.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Divya Narayanan

MUSIC: “The Chase” (Amit Heri and Mani Sharma), recorded by Gayathri; “Dance Like a Man” (Ganesh and Kumaresh), recorded by Ganesh and Kumaresh

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 *sapp*.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Greg Rawlings and Sally Rawlings

MUSIC: “Bhangra” (Gypsy Aujla), recorded by Saini Surinder



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.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Greg Rawlings and Sally Rawlings

MUSIC: "Discowale Khisko" (Pritam Chakraborty), recorded by Krishnakumar Kunnath, Sunidhi Chauhan, and Rana Mazumder

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Hungary: Dulándlé

In Kalotaszeg, Transylvania, a *dulándlé* was placed on the head of a new wife until the birth of her first child. A *dulándlé* is a fine, white veil with embroidery around the edges. This choreographic work portrays the emotional state of a young girl preparing for marriage, accompanied by the beautiful and distinct dances of the Kalotaszeg region. The spectacular men's dance—the competitive *legényes*, often considered in Hungary to be the "king of dances"—is accompanied by two types of couples' dances: the *csárdás*, which is perhaps the quintessential Hungarian couples' dance, and the *szapora*, which manifests speed and virtuosity.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Juhász Zsolt

MUSIC: Traditional; recorded by Göncöl band

MUSIC ARRANGEMENT: Kelemen László

Slovakia: Lúčnica

Lúčnica is the name of the Slovak National Folklore Ballet, the BYU ensemble's friends in Bratislava. "Forever young" best describes this set of two dances—*verbunk* and *syracovy*—from Slovakia.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Ervin Varga

RE-STAGING: Jeanette Geslison

MUSIC: Traditional; performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT: Peter Jantosciak

Tonga: 'Upē 'O Siu'ilikutapu

The traditional *tau'olunga* is still performed today at special occasions, including 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. "'Upē 'O Siu'ilikutapu" is a well-known lullaby composed by the late Queen Sālote Tupou III and written to welcome the newly born Princess Mele Siu'ilikutapu. The princess became well known for being the first female parliamentarian in Tonga. The Tongan people dance to this song in memory of Princess Siu'ilikutapu, who is honored for her life of devotion.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Valeti Mapuna A Vaiola Sekona

MUSIC: "'Upē 'O Siu'ilikutapu" (Sālote Tupou III), recorded by Folau

SOLOIST: Makeila Morgan





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); drums by Tyler Anderson and Arthur Prusso

USA: Every Which-A-Way

MUSIC: “Every Which-A-Way” (Aubrey “Moon” Mullican); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT: The Quebe Sisters, Mark Geslison, and Mountain Strings

USA: The Breakaway Rag

This Charleston-style tap dance harkens back to the Jazz Age.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Abby Collins, Dawson Collins, and Jacob Madsen

MUSIC: “Ain’t She Sweet” (Milton Ager and Jack Yellen); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT: Mark Geslison

SOLOISTS: Abby Collins and Dawson Collins

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 Hatch

MUSIC: "Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue" (Ray Henderson); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT: Mark Geslison

Ukraine: Ukraine, My Ukraine

MUSIC: "Odessa Mama" and "Milenkiy Druzhocek" (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT: Dean Marshall, Nate Olson, and Mark Geslison

Ireland: Irish Blessing

MUSIC: "Irish Blessing" (Geoff Groberg); performed by Mountain Strings and the International Folk Dance Ensemble

LYRICS: Traditional

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.

CHOREOGRAPHY: Colleen West and Jeanette Geslison, with Edwin G. Austin Jr.

MUSIC: Traditional; recorded by the Intermountain Symphony Orchestra

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT: Tyler Castleton and Daniel Lee



PERFORMERS



Tori Allen
Phoenix, AZ
Exercise Science



McKenzie Bellon
Highland, UT
Neuroscience



Tanner Birtcher
Wheaton, IL
Molecular Biology



Brielle Bowden
Mesa, AZ
Accounting



Tana Bybee
Provo, UT
Dance



David Chandler
Mesa, AZ
Linguistics



Abby Collins
Provo, UT
Social Science
Teaching



Dawson Collins
Rexburg, ID
Mathematics

continued



PERFORMERS *(continued)*



Remington Comp
Cedar City, UT
History



Nathan Cox
American Fork, UT
Actuarial Science



Braden Duke
Bountiful, UT
Cybersecurity



Colton Fields
Lakeville, MN
Microbiology



Crozier Fitzgerald
Rexburg, ID
Exercise Science



Levi Hancock
Fairborn, OH
Physics



Amy Hawkes
LaGrange, GA
Communication
Disorders



Jillian Iverson
South Jordan, UT
Dance

continued



PERFORMERS *(continued)*



Dallin Lyon
Firestone, CO
Music Dance
Theatre



Jade Madison
Mobile, AL
Dance



Makeila Morgan
Sacramento, CA
Dance



Matthew Peterson
Alpine, UT
Applied and
Computational
Mathematics



Isaac Schaat
Rexburg, ID
Finance



Clara Smilanick
Roseville, CA
Mathematics
Education



Tori Stone
Provo, UT
Editing and
Publishing



Bailey Tucker
Orem, UT
Human
Development

continued



PERFORMERS *(continued)*



Efrain Villalobos
Mapleton, UT
Communications



Carly Wanlass
Lehi, UT
Elementary
Education



Janelle Wilson
Salt Lake City, UT
Dance



Anthony Xanthos
Beaverton, OR
Exercise Science



MOUNTAIN STRINGS MUSICIANS



Tyler Anderson
Roseburg, OR
Product and User
Experience Design



Madeline Charles
Lehi, UT
Communications



Ellie Geslison
Provo, UT
Sociology



Christina Iverson
Southborough, MA
Molecular Biology



Austin Johnson
Norfolk, VA
Spanish



Arthur Prusso
Holladay, UT
Music Performance



Emily Wall
Gainesville, VA
Bioinformatics

STUDENT TECHNICIANS



**Valeria Estrada
Peynado**
Stage Manager
Katy, TX
Exercise and
Wellness



Renée Howard
Audio Technician
Draper, UT
Undeclared



Walter Iverson
Assistant Stage
Manager
Preston, ID
Biology



Elizabeth Padgett
Audio Engineer
Redlands, CA
Spanish



Hannah Tran
Master Electrician
Bonsall, CA
Bioinformatics

PRODUCTION AND ADMINISTRATION

Jeanette Geslison

Artistic Director

Mark Geslison

Mountain Strings Director

Teresa Love

Scriptwriter

Benjamin Sanders

Production Manager

Mark Ohran

*Technical Director/
Lighting Designer*

Crysta Lamb

Production Stage Manager

John Shurtleff

Technical Support

Erin Dinnell Bjorn

Projection Designer

Kami Wallin

Production Assistant

Kye Davis

Rehearsal Assistant

Stephanie Breinholt

Voice-Over

Langi Tuifua

Voice-Over

Amy Handy

Costumer

Amanda Alley

Assistant Costumer

Jaren Wilkey

Photography

Troy Sales

Audio Designer

Isaiah Vela

Digital Advertising

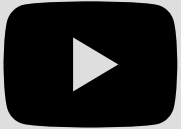
Adam M. Johnson

Program Graphic Designer

Brenda Critchfield

Dance Medicine Trainer

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International Folk Dance Ensemble

With a beautiful array of ethnic costumes and props, BYU's International Folk Dance Ensemble presents a program of dances from more than 10 nations, including Hungary, India, the Philippines, Poland, Ukraine, and the United States.

Since 1964, the ensemble has represented the United States and American culture at folk dance festivals throughout the world, including the festival held in conjunction with the 1988 Seoul Olympics and the opening ceremony of the 2002 Salt Lake Olympics. In addition, the group regularly presents its international repertoire throughout the United States and Canada. International Folk Dance Ensemble is highly acclaimed for its skillful dancing, artistry, and energy.

Brigham Young University

Nestled between Utah Lake and the Rocky Mountains, Brigham Young University seeks to develop students of faith, intellect, and character who are committed to learning and serving throughout their lives. Both highly ranked and highly affordable, BYU is a major research institution that offers global opportunities for experiential learning. The university is home to about 35,000 students who come from more than 100 countries. Founded by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, BYU strives to be an exceptional university for the benefit of the world.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT BYU PERFORMING ARTS MANAGEMENT

Stacey Christensen, Artist Manager | 306 Hinckley Center, Provo, UT 84602

801-422-3574 | perform@byu.edu | pam.byu.edu