

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

## INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

presents

# JOURNEY REFLECTIONS

## JOURNEY REFLECTIONS

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**

MUSIC: "Philosophers, Poets, and Kings" (Kate Rusby), recorded by BYU Mountain Strings

#### **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: "Wesele w Jerioranach" and "Było nie było" (W. Pawelec) and "Wczesne popołudnie" (M. Skorupiński), recorded by Polska Kapela Ludowa

#### **Brazil: Bailares Gaúchos**

This exciting medley of Brazilian *Gaucho* dances begins with *Tirana do Lenço*, a courtship dance originally from 18th-century Spain, that expresses a lady's gradual acceptance of her suitor's romantic advances. After 100 years in South America, the Brazilian *Tirana do Lenço* became a tradition unto itself, characterized by a taste for accordion music and intricate footwork. This is followed by a men's *Chula*, a percussive dance performed over a spear that arose from competitions between cattle drivers on the road from Rio Grande do Sul to São Paulo. The medley concludes with the cheerful *Rancheiro de Carreirinha*, a 19th-century social dance that grew from the European Waltz and Mazurka and was 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

#### 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), recorded by BYU

**Mountain Strings** 

**MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT: Mark Geslison** 



#### **Philippines: Mabuhay!**

A Filipino greeting, "mabuhay!" means "to live!" or "long live!" In this medley we present two traditional Filipino dances. First Sayaw sa Bangko, where dancers must use good skill and balance while performing exciting movement 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 is 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), recorded by BYU

**Mountain Strings** 

**MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT: Mark Geslison** 





#### Peru: Marinera Norteña

Marinera Norteña is the national dance of Peru, known for its elegance, flirtatious style, and symbolic representation of courtship. It is set to lively music that blends Indigenous, Spanish, and African influences, featuring instruments like the guitar and cajón. The dance reflects the vibrant, mixed cultural heritage of Peru and has evolved as a key part of the region's identity. The dance is not just a performance but also a cultural expression of pride, elegance, and resilience, often reflecting the spirit of Peru.

**CHOREOGRAPHY: Piero Gongora** 

MUSIC: "Que Baile Maria Teresa" (Juan Benites Reyes), recorded by

Inspiración Criolla and Nataly Shantelle

**SOLOIST: Piero Gongora** 

#### 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 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.

**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: Ghar Waapasi**

Bollywood is a film industry based in Mumbai, India. Bollywood films are known for elaborate song-and-dance scenes, extravagant sets and costumes, and melodrama. The Bollywood dance style combines traditional Indian dances with Western contemporary styles such as hip-hop. In our story, a successful warrior returns home to reconnect with a beloved childhood friend. Will his love be returned?

CHOREOGRAPHY: Greg Rawlings and Sally Rawlings
MUSIC: "Malhari" (Sanjay Leela Bhansali, with lyrics by Prashant Ingole),
recorded by Vishal Dadlani; "Laal Ghagra" (Tanishk Bagchi, Manj Musik, and
Herbie Sahara), recorded by Manj Musik, Herbie Shara, and Neha Kakkar
SOLOISTS: Tanner Birtcher and Amy Hawkes

#### PAUSE

#### **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 quick Csárdás (Szapora), that is manifest in its speed and virtuosity.

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Juhász Zsolt

MUSIC: Traditional; recorded by Göncöl band

MUSIC ARRANGEMENT: Kelemen László

#### Slovak Republic: Lúčnica

"Forever Young" best describes this set of two dances from Slovakia: *Verbunk and Syracovy*. It also is the name of the Slovak National Folklore Ballet, our friends in Bratislava.

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Ervin Varga

**ADDITIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY: Jeanette Geslison** 

**MUSIC:** Traditional

**MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT: Peter Jantosciak** 

#### **Norway: Hallingdans**

This acrobatic and competitive men's dance derives from Hallingdal in rural central Norway. Often performed at celebrations or gatherings, the men use the dance to show off skills and fitness to the girls. Nowadays it is danced by both men and women.

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Traditional

**STAGING:** Jeanette Geslison and Anthony Xanthos

MUSIC: "Rotnheimsknut" (traditional), recorded by Øyvind Brabant

**SOLOIST: Anthony Xanthos** 





#### 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 Piero Gongora

and Dallin Lyon

#### **USA: The Breakaway Rag**

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

**CHOREOGRAPHY: Jacob Madsen** 

MUSIC: "Ain't She Sweet" (Milton Ager and Jack Yellen), recorded by BYU

**Mountain Strings** 

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT: Mark Geslison soloists: Dallin Lyon and Clara Smilanick

#### **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" (Ray Henderson), recorded by BYU Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT: Mark Geslison

## First Nations of North America: Hoop Dance

The Native American hoop dance highlights circular relationships or cycles of life. Dancers use hoops to tell the story of life through the eyes of an eagle. The hoops represent the many plants and animals that an eagle would see throughout its life, and, most importantly, they show how these living creatures harmoniously work together to perpetuate the renewal of life—the end of one life leads to the beginning of a new life.

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Cami Losik

MUSIC: "Power to my People" (Northern Cree), recorded by Northern Cree

**SOLOIST:** Cami Losik

#### **Ireland: Irish Blessing**

MUSIC: "Irish Blessing" (Geoff Groberg), recorded by BYU 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



**Bryce Barker**Appleton, WI
Exercise and
Wellness



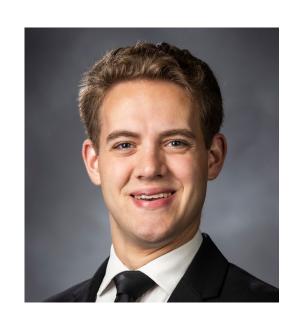
**Alex Beard**Sedalia, MO
Accounting



**Lizzie Beard** Tooele, UT Psychology



**Tanner Birtcher**Wheaton, IL
Molecular Biology



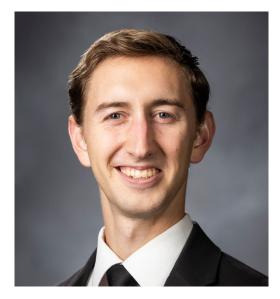
**Tyson Boxer**Manassas, VA
Mathematics
Education



**Brielle Comp**Mesa, AZ
Accounting

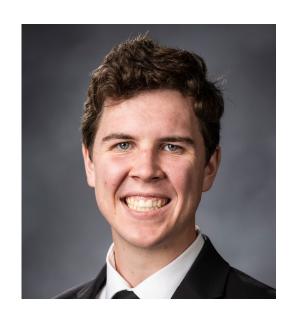


**Samuel Devenport**Payson, UT
International
Relations



Christian Devey
Orem, UT
Mechanical
Engineering

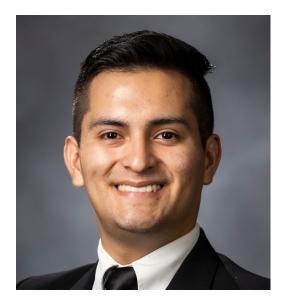




**Cael Erickson** Spanish Fork, UT Applied and Computational **Mathematics** 



**Ellie Erickson** Holladay, UT Accounting



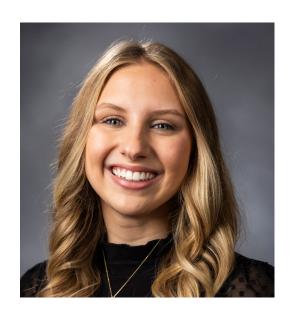
**Piero Gongora** Chimbote, Peru Finance



**Levi Hancock** Fairborn, OH **Physics** 



**Emily Hanson** Hughson, CA Marketing



**Amy Hawkes** LaGrange, GA Communication Disorders



**Cami Losik** Layton, UT Psychology



**Natalie Lund** Provo, UT Product and User Experience Design





**Dallin Lyon** Firestone, CO Music Dance Theatre



**Amy Nattress** Sandy, UT Exercise and Wellness



**Emma V. Richardson** Kaysville, UT **Public Relations** 



**Savannah Savage** Draper, UT **Experience Design** and Management



**Clara Smilanick** Roseville, CA Social Science **Teaching** 



**Sierra Stahly** Overland Park, KS Dance



**Bailey Tucker** Orem, UT Human Development



**Anthony Xanthos** Beaverton, OR **Exercise Science** 

### STUDENT TECHNICIANS



**Allison Bertasso**Bluffton, SC
Theatre Arts Studies



**Abraham Gutierrez**Newman, CA
Social Science
Teaching



**Emily Jay**Provo, UT
Family Studies



**Justin Small**Gilbert, AZ
Pre-Commercial
Music



**Lydia Stewart** Temple, TX Pre-Illustration

# PRODUCTION AND ADMINISTRATION

**Jeanette Geslison** 

**Artistic 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** 

**Spencer Waddell** 

Rehearsal Assistant

**Stephanie Breinholt** 

Voice-Over

**Langi Tuifua** 

Voice-Over

**Dawn Maughan** 

Costume Shop Manager

**Amanda Alley** 

Costume Coordinator

Jaren Wilkey

**Photography** 

**Troy Sales** 

Audio Designer

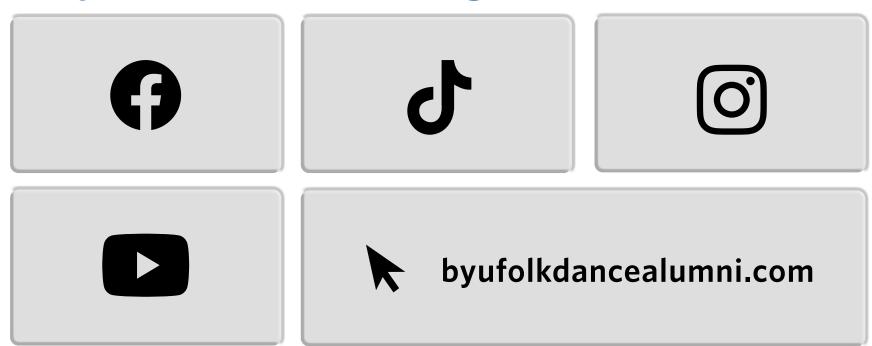
**Adam M. Johnson** 

Program Graphic Designer

**Brenda Critchfield** 

Dance Medicine Trainer

#### Stay connected with @BYUFolkDance



#### 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.