

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 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**.

Ukraine: Volyn

Dances from the Volyn region of Ukraine are known for their flamboyance and demanding technique. The rhythms and bright costumes display the energy and grace of this cultural art form.

Choreography: Myroslav Vantukh, artistic director of the P. Virsky Ukrainian National Folk Dance Ensemble

Restaging: Luba and Yuri Grekov

Music: Traditional; recorded by Pavlo Virsky Ukrainian Orchestra

French Canada: Attaches Tes Bottines

This lively Québécoise celebration of music and dance comes alive with the song "Sur la Grande Côte," which demonstrates the playful call-and-answer tradition.

Choreography: Martin Langlais and Caroline St. Martin

Music: "Sur la Grande Côte," by La Bottine Souriante; performed by Mountain Strings

Ireland: Slip Jig

This traditional dance in a 9/8 time signature was originally performed by men but is now performed exclusively by women.

Choreography: Tina Shelley

Music: "Soggy's," by Sean Graham; performed by Mountain Strings

Ireland: Ceilidh

A traditional Gaelic social gathering is interspersed with precision figure dancing.

Choreography: Victoria Ringer and Michael Romney

Staging: Jeanette Geslison

Music: "Cup of Tea," "White Petticoat" (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings

Ireland: Curse Reversed

Staging: Jeanette Geslison

Music: "The Curse Reversed," by Hanneke Cassel; performed by Mountain Strings

Musical arrangement: Mark Geslison

USA: Steppin'

Irish step dancing, clogging, and tap dance share the stage with similar yet different styles. Each type of percussive footwork is unique in its roots but now crosses paths with the others in this fusion of rhythmic expression.

Choreography: Tina Shelley, Greg Tucker, and Colleen West

Music: "Cuckoo's Nest" (traditional), "Catharsis" (by Amy Cann), "I'se A Muggin' " (by Django Reinhardt), "Hull's Reel" (by John Morris Rankin); performed by Mountain Strings

Musical arrangement: Mark Geslison

USA: Five Foot Two

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

Musical arrangement: Mark Geslison

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: Jeanette Geslison
Music: “Papa Loko—Rara Papiyon” (traditional); recorded by Sångensemblen Amanda

Mexico: Veracruz Espectacular

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

Choreography: Miguel Peña
Re-staging: Jeanette Geslison
Music: Traditional

USA: Simple Love

Music: “Simple Love,” by Sarah Siskind; 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 and Sally Rawlings
Music: “Nagada, Nagada,” by Pritam Chakraborty; recorded by Javed Ali and Sonu Nigam

Intermission

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

Bulgaria: The Gorgeous

This dance represents Bulgaria with one foot in the past and one in the present. Industrialization and urban migration bring inevitable changes that affect all countries. The message here is that people need not lose their identity or roots by accepting modernity. This far-reaching message is about preserving and respecting the uniqueness of treasured traditions—and that beauty without wisdom will eventually wither away.

Libretto and choreography: Daniela Ivanova
Music: Kyril Vladov; recorded by Philip Koutev National Folklore Ensemble

Hungary: Magyorok Táncok

From the county of Somogy in southwestern Hungary, the *üv_e_g_e_s_* and *b_o_t_o_ló* dances belong to the dance dialect of “swineherds” and “jumping” dances. The use of props—such as cooks’ bottles and shepherds’ sticks—was an integral part of this people’s lifestyle. Finally, an energetic piece from the Szatmár region fills the stage with one of Hungary’s most beloved traditional dances.

Choreography: Jeanette Geslison
Vocals: BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble and BYU Men’s Chorus
Music: Traditional; recorded by the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble
Musical arrangement: Hungarian State Folk Ensemble

Hungary: Gypsy

Staging: Jeanette Geslison
Music: Mark Geslison; performed by Mountain Strings

Hungary: Férfi Mulatság

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: Traditional; 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 Figuero; performed by Mountain Strings

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