



News Release

2024-2025 Season

Mountain Strings

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Performing Arts Management



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mountain Strings Highlights the Best of Folk Music

When the talented musicians of Brigham Young University's Mountain Strings play their instruments, the air comes alive with sounds of good, old-fashioned fun. With energetic performances featuring American and international folk music, Mountain Strings plays their way into the hearts of audiences around the world. Also a part of Folk Dance Ensemble, Mountain Strings brings the best of live entertainment. Either touring on their own or with their dance counterpart, Mountain Strings has traveled the world to folk festivals and beyond. Wherever they go, they remind people of the magic and the talent of different cultures and eras. They are currently busy preparing for their upcoming performances of December 2024 in the BYU Marriott Center.



Mountain Strings

Mountain Strings is composed of seven talented instrumentalists, who also double as vocalists. They perform with a variety of traditional folk instruments such as the fiddle, mandolin, banjo, dulcimer, guitar, piano, bass, accordion; unique percussion instruments, including cajón, bones, spoons, and bodhrán (a Celtic drum). The group was originally formed in 1982 to accompany BYU's International Folk Dance Ensemble with live music on international tours. Now, in addition to supporting the dance ensemble, Mountain Strings also performs for a variety of local audiences.

The ensemble delivers a program brimming with excitement and variety. It performs musical styles ranging from Appalachian Folk, Celtic, French-Canadian, to Bluegrass, Cajun and Gypsy Jazz. In addition to performing, the group enjoys educating its audiences about the history of the music it plays and the historic importance of the unique instruments.

Most recently, in 2024, Mountain Strings accompanied the International Folk Dance Ensemble (IFDE) on their extended tour to Mexico where they performed in the Vallarta Azteca International Folk Dance Festival before touring the Southern United States. In 2023, the music group joined IFDE on an extended tour to Hungary where they performed at the international CIOFF folk festivals in Czechia and the Danube Carnival Festival.

In 2024 the group released a music video for "Handsome Molly" a traditional American song that has been popular among bluegrass musicians and singers for decades. Mountain Strings decided to do a more playful take on the song, giving it a Caribbean beat and some exciting solos.

Mountain Strings is directed by Mark Geslison of the School of Music at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. BYU is one of the nation's largest private universities with more than 30,000 students from the U.S. and about 100 foreign countries.

Artistic Director

Under the direction of Mark Geslison, Brigham Young University's Mountain Strings strives to revive the good ole' days of rustic living with the sounds of fiddles, banjos, mandolins, and many more delightful instruments.

Since 1992, Geslison has led the ensemble, bringing live traditional music to regional and international audiences all over the world. The ensemble has performed with the Folk Dance Ensemble since the 1960s, traveling to most continents, covering almost 100 countries.

In addition to the formal education he received at Brigham Young University, Geslison feels fortunate to have gained 15 years of additional education through extensive worldwide travel and through his work with many talented individuals.

Geslison has won several guitar and mandolin state championships since the 1980s. His students have also won many top honors at numerous events around the country.

Since 1998, Geslison has authored 18 books and 19 recordings. He was awarded a Pearl Award and a Best of State medal in 2005 for his collaborative work with Geoff Groberg titled "Emma's Hymns." This is a recording of Christian hymns that date back to the early 19th century. He won a second Best of State award in 2007 for his work in music education outreach through his private foundation, the Institute of American Music Foundation. Geslison's other businesses include the for-profit sister company, www.institutefofamericanmusic.com. This is an online company that distributes numerous titles by Mark Geslison. The products are based in music education. He is married to Jeanette, who is the director of the International Folk Dance Ensemble. He has three children; Alina, Isaac and Ellie Anna.





Upcoming Performances

December 6, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Marriott Center
Provo, UT

December 7, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Marriott Center
Provo, UT

December 7, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Marriott Center
Provo, UT

December 11, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Recital Hall- BYU Music Building
Provo, UT

March 13, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Recital Hall- BYU Music Building
Provo, UT

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Mountain Strings

originates in the School of Music
in the College of Fine Arts
and Communication at Brigham
Young University in Provo, Utah.