



## News Release

2019-20 Season

## Young Ambassadors

Performing Arts Management  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Young Ambassadors Celebrates 50 years of Singing and Dancing

The BYU Young Ambassadors are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of their first appearance in the international spotlight at Expo '70, in Osaka, Japan. In the last fifty years, seventeen hundred Young Ambassadors have traveled thousands of miles, visiting sixty-eight countries, meeting millions of new friends who long remember their fast-paced choreography and the beloved melodies that have captured the hearts of young and old through half a century of tours. Young Ambassadors continues their energetic tradition of song and dance as they recall their past travel in their new show- *Souvenirs*.

Young Ambassadors feature twenty of the best singers and dancers from BYU, and also include ten of BYU's finest instrumentalists. The Young Ambassador Showband is conducted by Professor Eric Hansen and featuring three show-stopping pieces, adds dynamic energy and class to *Souvenirs*. Come see their high-energy performance at (place) on (date) at (time).



## Young Ambassadors

Young Ambassadors is a group filled with members who are excited to share their talents, experiences, and love through their show, *Souvenirs*. With tours in 68 countries over 50 years, the world-traveled troupe shares decades of the best in entertainment with music by recording artists Ed Sheeran, Billy Joel, Judy Garland, the Beach Boys, Rascal Flatts, Brad Paisley and Frank Sinatra. The new Young Ambassador show, *Souvenirs*, celebrates international friends around the globe whose association have influenced Young Ambassador company members while traveling at home and in faraway places. *Souvenirs* features numbers from Broadway's *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Hairspray*, *Crazy for You*, *Dreamgirls*, *Bandstand*, and *Spamalot* as well as songs from beloved children's movies. International hits from pop stars such as the Beatles, and Stevie Wonder round out their lineup for a memorable journey through some of your favorites over the past fifty years.

Since 2000, Young Ambassadors have been to Brazil, Argentina, the 2002 Winter Olympics, Canada, Russia, Australia, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, China, Africa, Tasmania, throughout Scandinavia, and all over the U.S. Young Ambassadors have also performed for heads of state in India, Britain, Jordan, Egypt, Japan, and the United States. Prominent past members include former Miss America Sharlene Wells Hawkes, Diamond Rio's Dan Truman, and Broadway favorites Christeena Michelle Riggs and Candese Marchese.

Throughout the world, Young Ambassadors are followed by a strong reputation as wholesome, professional entertainers. The group has recently traveled to Brazil this past summer to share their message and show. This year, they will take their show to cities in Nevada, California, and China.

Young Ambassadors represents the School of Music in cooperation with the Department of Dance from the College of Fine Arts and Communications at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. BYU is one of America's largest private universities with more than 30,000 students from all over the United States and 100 foreign countries.



## Artistic Director

In 1970, eighteen-year-old Young Ambassador member, Randy Boothe had no idea that only a few years later, in 1977 till the present day, he would travel the globe as Young Ambassadors Artistic Director. In addition to his work with Young Ambassadors, Boothe has also directed for Walt Disney Productions, Jackson Hole Playhouse, and Hawaii's Polynesian Cultural Center. Boothe's productions have taken him around the globe with live and televised appearances in over 43 countries. His work was even seen during the 2002 Olympic Winter Games where he co-directed a major production involving hundreds of cast members. His musical groups have performed for children in hospitals and orphanages and for royalty and government officials in elegant concert halls.



## Artistic Director

Eric Hansen's time with Young Ambassadors began thirty years ago as a member of the group's live band; he now returns as Young Ambassadors' music producer and show band director. An alumnus of Johns Hopkins University's Peabody Conservatory, Hansen has been able to turn his music education into a thriving career performing as principal bass with groups such as the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, Musik Barock Ensemble, Talbot Chamber Orchestra, Great Music West Festival Orchestra, and National Chamber Orchestra in Washington, D.C. On returning to work with Young Ambassadors, Hansen says, "It is a deep joy and privilege for me to now be one of the directors, and particularly to be able to once again serve on the front lines of actively sharing the image, message, stature, and values of BYU to the world."



## Upcoming Performances

**January 17, 2020 at 7:30pm**  
College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Auditorium  
Twin Falls, Idaho

**January 18, 2020 at 7:00pm**  
Star Valley High School  
Afton, Wyoming

**February 11, 2020 at 7:00pm**  
Pioneer Theater  
Reno, Nevada

**February 12, 2020 at 7:00pm**  
Merced Theatre  
Merced, California

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Young Ambassadors  
originates in the School of Music and  
Department of Dance from the College  
of Fine Arts and Communications at  
Brigham Young University located in  
Provo, Utah.