

BYU American Folk Dance Ensemble

Brigham Young University's American Folk Dance Ensemble has been showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the United States at international folklore festivals around the world since 1964.

As ambassadors of the United States, the dance troupe presents repertoire which includes music and choreography from New England, the Appalachian Mountains, the southern United States and the Rocky Mountains. Their fast-paced, superbly staged program includes Appalachian clogging, Southern waltzes, New England Contra, square dancing, hambone, and much more.

The ensemble is one of the most sought-after American folk ensembles at international folk festivals. Since 1964 they have visited 29 festivals in 31 countries. The ensemble has been invited back to the Mondial des Cultures de Drummondville in Quebec, Canada more than any other group in the festival's history. Many prestigious festivals have invited the troupe back at least five times, including the International Folklore Festival in Haifa, Israel, the Festival de Confolens in France, and the Billingham International Folkore Festival in England.

The troupe boasts 36 musicians, singers and dancers who combine to form one of the most unique groups of performing artists in the United States. Mountain Strings, the group's folk music ensemble, is featured throughout the concert and adds the magic of live bluegrass and traditional foot-stomping music.

The American Folk Dance Ensemble originates in the Department of Dance and in the College of Fine Arts and Communications at Brigham Young University. Mountain Strings originates in the School of Music, also in the College of Fine Arts and Communication at BYU. BYU was founded by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and is now one of the nation's largest private universities with an enrollment of 30,000 students from throughout the United States and 110 foreign countries.

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