
Program

AMERICAN FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

March 2014

Brigham Young University

Contact: Performing Arts Management
(801) 422-3576
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Music and dance selections will be chosen from the following:

AMERICAN JAMBOREE

Influenced by the rugged life of the cowboy, dancing on the frontier was the highlight of every occasion. Reels, jigs and squares were danced with fervor, and sometimes the fun was wild and unruly.

Texas Fandango

A humorous characterization of the American cowboy in the south-western United States. An all men's dance.

Buffalo Gals

Not to be outdone, the women add their flavor of the west in this all women's dance.

Polka Quadrille Square Dance

An exciting exhibition of traditional figures captures the spirit of the western square dance.

DANCES OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

No group did more to preserve America's music and dance than did the Pioneers as they traveled West across the plains. Playing musical instruments, singing, and dancing were often part of an evening's activities after a long day of travel. The dances not only kept the Pioneers from freezing at night, but also warmed and lifted their spirits.

The Gathering

The choreography depicts the everyday life of the Frontier and highlights the music and dance of these strong settlers.

**Performing
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DANCES OF APPALACHIA

The Appalachian mountains in the South-Eastern United States were settled primarily by immigrants from Scotland, Ireland and England. They brought their music and dance with them to these mountains.

The 17th century English Running Sets remained virtually unchanged and was the predecessor to Big Mountain Circle Dancing. The jigs, clogs and step-dance combined with influences from the Indians and Blacks to produce American buck dancing and clogging. Precision clogging has recently become popular and along with the square dance can be considered one of the most familiar forms of traditional dance in the United States today.

Appalachian Patchwork

This choreography pieces together music and dance of the Appalachian Mountains. Ninepin, Running Set, Big Circle Mountain Dance, and Handpattin' are featured in this work.

Hambone

This rhythmic men's dance is distinguished by stamping, clapping, and the slapping of arms, chest and thighs. We know this form of accompaniment was also known in the Appalachian Mountains because of Cecil Sharp's description at Pine Mountain: "the air seemed literally to pulsate with the rhythm of the 'patters'..."

CLOGGING

American step dance with European roots. Clogging was originally influenced by the dance steps of Native Americans and black slaves. More recently, we have seen the influence of American tap dance and the French-Canadian jig to our north.

Suzy

American clogging lands on the contemporary stage in an exciting fusion of dance styles. This is "thoroughly modern" clogging.

Western Wildfire

--A new take on the precision form of Appalachian clogging, an American step dance with European roots. This dance builds on the traditional style of couple and square dance styles adding new figures and steps. Additional movement styles from swing dancing, tap and Irish dancing create a new and exciting style of precision dancing! Hold on as we take precision clogging into the 21st century!

Dueling Rhythms

A traditionally based clogging piece, presented in a competitive spirit.

Showdown

American Clogging was often enjoyed in a competitive spirit at impromptu gatherings. The best dancers would show off their latest steps to impress the others. Often, the latest innovations were found as dancers tried to "win out" each other in these "Showdowns". This year's showdown features dancers in groups and individually trying to prove who is best! It all culminates with the exciting style of traditional couple clogging as aspiring competitors dance together to showcase the heart of American dance traditions!

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SOUTHERN REFLECTIONS

During the 19th century, the fashions, etiquette, and dance styles of Europe were important to many people living in the United States. The dances were largely standardized by dance masters in Paris, London and Philadelphia and printed in dance manuals throughout the world. Thus, many familiar dance forms were present in the parlors of plantations throughout the southern United States.

Spanish Waltz-Waltz Round

Beginning with the Spanish Waltz, the choreography transforms into popular waltz variations danced in a Sicilian circle.

Five-Step Waltz

An American variation on the traditional waltz.

Galop

This version combines the original simple dance with the figures, "Changing of the Ladies" by Henry Wales and "Diving Through and Splitting Another Couple" by Charles Durang.

20TH CENTURY TRADITIONAL AMERICAN DANCES

The 20th century brought new life to American dance traditions with the influence of Latin, African and Caribbean ragtime music. The Charleston dance craze developed in South Carolina in the 1920's and was considered rather scandalous at the time. The Charleston dance was the precursor to the Lindy Hop American swing dance which developed in the 1930's. The American tap dance tradition should not be left out as it is firmly intertwined with the development of blues and jazz music. It was strongly influenced by Irish step dance, African Americans and the Vaudeville shows. The 20th century brought tap dance to motion pictures. Another traditional American dance style today is Western swing dance which was developed primarily by the cowboys as they migrated west. It is currently danced to country swing music influenced directly from the music of Bob Wills.

Charleston

The Charleston dance that will take you back to a time of flappers, fringe and fancy footwork. The Charleston, developed in African-American communities of South Carolina in the 1920s, was widely popularized by the 1923 hit tune "The Charleston." It became one of the most popular American dance crazes of its time.

40's Swing

The Room is Jumpin -- is exactly what the name describes: a room filled with dancers swingin', gyratin', boppin', and flying across the floor; literally jumpin' to the music. It is more commonly known as the *Lindy Hop*.

When I'm Gone....

A percussive footwork piece using the medium of American tap dance to convey various rhythmic structures with speed, accuracy and clarity. Accents, syncopation and the articulation of energy will create audible pictures of expression on stage.

Western Line/Swing Dance

Country Man; a Country/Western line and swing dance is a popular dance form in the United States today. With boot slapping, heel clicking, lifts and twirls, this number will sure to get all audience members tappin' or clappin' along.

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Mountain Strings

Composed of seven talented instrumentalists and vocalists, these folk musicians perform musical styles ranging from Appalachian Folk and American New England to Bluegrass, Cajun, Jazz, Blues and Country. Their instruments include the fiddle, mandolin, banjo, dulcimer, guitar, harmonica, accordion, and bass. Formed to accompany the Folk Dance Ensemble in 1982, the group delivers a program packed with excitement and good old-fashioned fun that brings the musical history of America to life.

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