

BYU



INTERNATIONAL
FOLK DANCE
ENSEMBLE



The Group

Combining ethnic traditions with exquisite costuming, Brigham Young University's International Folk Dance Ensemble (IFDE) showcases the dance styles of the world and features the traditions of the United States at international folklore festivals. The Ensemble offers one of the broadest spectrums of folk dance performed by a single group of its kind. Its extensive repertoire includes music and dance from all over the world including Europe, the Caribbean, and Asia. Members of IFDE are chosen by audition from among the most skilled performers, involving more than 200 students.

Honors

- In 2024, performed at the Vallarta Azteca International Folk Dance Festival in Mexico and toured the Southern United States with performances and community workshops
- In 2023, participated in the CIOFF International Folk Festivals in Czechia and the Danube Carnival Festival in Hungary
- Invited back at least five times to prestigious festivals including the International Folklore Festival in Haifa, Israel; the Festival de Confolens in France; and the Billingham International Folklore Festival in England

1971-2025

113

TOURS



2,373+

PERFORMANCES



54+

COUNTRIES VISITED



1.23M+

AUDIENCE MEMBERS



500+

OUTREACHES



The Show

BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble's current show, *Journey: Reflections*, shares strength from the past and present through traditional music and dance. For 90 minutes, audiences are transported around the world as dancers showcase cultures through furious footwork, pulsing rhythms, live music, and vibrant costumes. From American clogging and Irish step dance to Indian folk fusion, Ukrainian hopak, and more, the performance highlights the diversity of global traditions while revealing the common human experiences that unite us all. *Journey: Reflections* invites audiences to look back, celebrate their cultural heritage, and reflect on the paths that shape human experience, leaving viewers with a sense of wonder and connection.

Recent Tours

- February 2026: California
- July 2025: Italy
- May 2024: North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Florida



Outreach Efforts

BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble participates in various outreach activities during their tours, including:

- School presentations that share traditional cultural dance and music through engaging performances.
- Interactive lecture-demonstrations where dancers and musicians teach audiences about cultural traditions and invite participation.
- Combined performance and educational experiences that blend entertainment with cultural learning.
- Community outreach such as visits with special needs groups and opportunities for students to interact directly with dancers and musicians.
- Cultural exchange through showcasing international dance traditions, such as Indian dance, to broaden understanding and appreciation among audiences.

“The dancers and the musicians were absolutely magnificent. Everyone in my office who was lucky enough to attend the performance has been talking today about the energy, enthusiasm, and sheer talent that was on stage last night. The overwhelming feeling here is that it’s extremely unfortunate that there could only be one performance!” Courtney Austrian, U.S. State Department, Kiev, Ukraine



234K+

VIEWS



1.31K+

SUBSCRIBERS



Director Jeanette Geslison

- Master of Fine Arts in Dance, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (specialized in Hungarian dance)
- From Odense, Denmark; trained in classical ballet, jazz, and theatre
- Former student performer with BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble (1987–1991, 1993–1994)
- Rehearsal specialist with IFDE since 1995; Artistic Director since 2011
- Expanded IFDE’s repertoire through her diverse background in dance and cultural performance
- Serves as committee chair for membership services in CIOFF-USA, supporting the safeguarding of traditional folk arts and international festivals



Scan to stay in touch with
BYU International Folk Dance

Artist Manager

Stacey Christensen
(801)-422-3574
stacey_christensen@byu.edu

Performing Arts Management

(801) 422-3576
perform@byu.edu
pam.byu.edu