

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

INTERNATIONAL
FOLK DANCE
ENSEMBLE

WITH

MOUNTAIN STRINGS



PERFORMANCE
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USA

TRAVELER

As settlers on the American frontier, our ancestors believed in working hard and playing hard. This rendition of a celebration circa 1900 displays the enthusiasm and freedom that helped build the character of the United States of America.

CHOREOGRAPHY Jeanette Geslison

MUSIC “Arkansas Traveler” (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT Dean Marshall

USA

THE GATHERING

This piece depicts the waves of immigrants who came to the US and gathered in the Appalachian Mountains. It also showcases various percussive influences that shaped the roots of American clogging style and includes samples of English Lancashire clog dancing, Welsh clog dancing, Irish Sean-nós solo dancing, Native American dancing, Appalachian flatfooting, Appalachian clogging, and French-Canadian Quebecois step dancing—culminating with a traditional American Virginia reel.

CHOREOGRAPHY Jeanette Geslison and students

MUSIC “Hard Times Come Again No More” (Stephen Foster), “Harvest Home” (traditional), “The Garden Jig” (traditional), and “Angus Campbell” (J. Scott Skinner); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT Mark Geslison



USA

FREIGHT TRAIN

A fusion of traditional line clogging and today's latest competition steps, this dance showcases the intricate rhythms and tangible energy of American clogging. Clogging originated in the Appalachian Mountains and was born from the blend of dance traditions brought by immigrants, African slaves, and Native Americans.

CHOREOGRAPHY Jillian Iverson

MUSIC "Freight Train" (Fred Eaglesmith); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT Mark Geslison and Mountain Strings

USA

SHOWDOWN

A friendly contest springs up as dancers and partners show their skills and tricks.

CHOREOGRAPHY Greg Tucker and Maria Tucker

MUSIC "Salt Creek" (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT Mark Geslison

USA

SHADY GROVE

MUSIC "Shady Grove" (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT Mark Geslison



USA

TEXAS FANDANGO

Texas Fandango reminds us of a time when men spent months away from family and loved ones as they worked on the wild frontiers of the American West. Underneath a starlit sky and in the privacy around their campfire, the American cowboys in this theatrical characterization show off their dancin' best—stirrin' up a little dust.

CHOREOGRAPHY Delynne Peay

MUSIC “Home on the Range” (Daniel E. Kelley and Brewster M. Higley VI), “8th of January” (traditional), “Soldier’s Joy” (traditional), “Clinch Mountain Backstep” (Ralph Stanley and Carter Stanley); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT Mark Geslison

USA

CALICO DARLIN’

The women take their turn to show off their skills and celebrate the joy of life in this Western-style dance.

CHOREOGRAPHY Michael Romney

MUSIC “Buffalo Gals” (traditional), “The Fox” (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT Mark Geslison

USA

THE MARY BEE EXHIBITION SQUARE

Traditional American square dance represents roots from English and French quadrilles. The addition of the dance “caller” makes American square dance unique from its predecessors. This dance form has served as an integral part of social life, especially in rural communities, since the foundation of the United States.

CHOREOGRAPHY Mary Bee Jensen

MUSIC “Red Wing” (Kerry Mills), “Turkey in the Straw” (traditional), “Jessie Polka” (Quirino Mendoza y Cortés); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT
Mark Geslison



USA

JAMMIN' WITH JOE

This number showcases the current power tap style of American clogging mixed with traditional footwork.

CHOREOGRAPHY Greg Tucker, Maria Tucker, and Bailey Tucker

MUSIC “Old Joe Clark” (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT Mark Geslison

USA

OLD JOE CLARK / JESSIE POLKA

MUSIC “Old Joe Clark” (traditional), “Jessie Polka” (Quirino Mendoza y Cortés); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT Mark Geslison

USA AND MEXICO

PERCUSSIVE DUET

SOLOISTS Cael Erickson and Levi Hancock

MEXICO

FANDANGO VERACRUZANO

The music and dance of Veracruz blends Spanish, African, and Caribbean rhythms. Old is made new, including the timeless bamba wedding dance as couples “tie the knot.”

CHOREOGRAPHY Miguel Peña

MUSIC “La Guacamaya” (traditional); recorded and arranged by Los Cojolites; “El Colas” and “La Bamba” (traditional); recorded and arranged by Luis Leñero

SOLOISTS Piero Gongora and Cami Losik



PERU

MARINERA NORTEÑA

Marinera Norteña is the national dance of Peru, known for its flirtatious style and symbolic representation of courtship. It is set to lively music that blends Indigenous, Spanish, and African influences, featuring instruments such as the guitar and cajón. The dance reflects the vibrant, mixed cultural heritage of Peru and has evolved as a key part of the region's identity and as a cultural expression of pride, elegance, and resilience.

CHOREOGRAPHY Piero Gongora

MUSIC “Que Baile Maria Teresa” (Juan Benites Reyes); recorded by Inspiración Criolla and Nataly Shantelle

SOLOIST Piero Gongora

INDIA

G HAR WAAPASI

Bollywood films from Mumbai, India, are known for elaborate song-and-dance scenes, extravagant sets and costumes, and melodrama. The Bollywood dance style combines traditional Indian dances with Western contemporary styles such as hip-hop. In our story, a successful warrior returns home to reconnect with a beloved childhood friend. Will his love be returned?

CHOREOGRAPHY Greg Rawlings and Sally Rawlings

MUSIC “Malhari” (Sanjay Leela Bhansali, with lyrics by Prashant Ingole); recorded by Vishal Dadlani; “Laal Ghaghra” (Tanishk Bagchi, Manj Musik, and Herbie Sahara, with lyrics by Tanishk Bagchi and Herbie Sahara); recorded by Manj Musik, Herbie Shara, and Neha Kakkar

SOLOISTS Bailey Tucker and Shaun Hicken

INTERLUDE

WITH MUSIC BY MOUNTAIN STRINGS



TÜRKIYE

TIDES OF ANATOLIA

This piece showcases a modern blend of traditional women’s and men’s dancing originating in the area of Trabzon, a fishing center on the Black Sea. The movements celebrate life familiar to this community, such as the motion of the sea, the handling of nets, and the twisting of caught fish.

CHOREOGRAPHY Ahmet Lüleci

MUSIC “Heyamo” (traditional), “Black Sea Medley” (traditional); recorded by Birol Topaloğlu

CANADA

ATTACHE TA TUQUE!

Using a variety of styles of step dancing from eastern Canada—Ottawa Valley, Cape Breton, and Quebecois styles—this lively fusion of historical and contemporary music and dance expressions revels in complexity and playfulness.

CHOREOGRAPHY Gary Larsen

MUSIC “Shoot the Moon” (Ten Strings and a Goat Skin); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT

Mark Geslison

CHINA

MO LI HUA

Mo Li Hua, meaning “jasmine flower,” is also a famous Chinese folk song. The flower, though not particularly beautiful, gives off a fragrance that gladdens the heart and refreshes the mind—symbolizing internal beauty and humility.

CHOREOGRAPHY Jiamin Huang

MUSIC “Mo Li Hua” (traditional); recorded by Beijing Angelic Choir



USA

MINOR SWING

MUSIC “Minor Swing” (Django Reinhardt); performed by Mountain Strings

USA

THE BREAKAWAY BUG

This Charleston-style tap dance harkens back to the Jazz Age.

CHOREOGRAPHY Jacob Madsen

MUSIC “Ain’t She Sweet” (Milton Ager and Jack Yellen); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT Mark Geslison

SOLOISTS Shaun Hicken and Carly Wanlass

USA

CHARLESTON

The Charleston dance craze of the 1920s was popularized by the rhythms of James P. Johnson’s tune “Charleston.” Traditionally from the Carolinas, the dance was made popular in Harlem in New York City.

CHOREOGRAPHY Colleen West, with Emily Hatch

MUSIC “Five Foot Two” (Ray Henderson), “Charleston” (James P. Johnson); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT Mark Geslison



USA

JUMP, JIVE, AN' WAIL

The Lindy hop combines jazz, tap, breakaway, and Charleston dance styles. Originating in Harlem, New York, in the 1920s, it crossed racial boundaries as both Black and White dancers came together in the integrated Savoy Ballroom. The dance was named after Charles Lindbergh, the famous American aviator who “hopped” across the Atlantic. Dancers build upon a basic swing step and improvise as they solo and partner freely. Get ready for some fast-paced fun with flips, spins, and (of course) hops.

CHOREOGRAPHY Elaine Grenko

MUSIC “Jump, Jive, an’ Wail” (Louis Prima); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT Mark Geslison

USA

CHATTAHOOCHEE

This spirited piece captures the essence of Texas through the seamless blend of country-western swing dance and traditional western line dancing. Rooted in the rich heritage of American cowboy culture, western swing dancing emerged during the 1930s, fusing musical influences from country, blues, jazz, and swing. Today it thrives in dance clubs as an improvisational couple-dance form. Western line dancing, a vibrant social tradition, draws inspiration from iconic styles like the cowboy cha-cha, two-step, vine, and polka. While honoring its classic roots, this piece embraces modern elements, reflecting the evolving nature of country-western dance today.

CHOREOGRAPHY Grant Taylor, Shalee Taylor, and Colleen West

MUSIC

“Chattahoochee” (Alan Jackson and Jim McBride); performed by Mountain Strings



FIRST NATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA

HOOP DANCE

The Native American hoop dance highlights circular relationships and cycles of life. Dancers use hoops to tell the story of life through the eyes of an eagle. The hoops represent the many plants and animals that an eagle would see throughout its life. Most importantly, the hoops show how these living creatures harmoniously work together to perpetuate the renewal of life—the end of one life leads to the beginning of new life.

CHOREOGRAPHY Cami Losik

MUSIC “Power to My People” (Northern Cree); recorded by Northern Cree

SOLOIST Cami Losik

IRELAND

DEEP BLUE

MUSIC “Breakfast Club” (Mohsen Amini and Tomás Callister), “Spiders” (Peter Morrison), “Eggs” (Ryan Murphy); performed by Mountain Strings

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT Ímar

IRELAND

IRISH BLESSING

MUSIC “Irish Blessing” (Geoff Groberg, with traditional lyrics); performed by Mountain Strings and International Folk Dance Ensemble



UKRAINE

HOPAK

Recognized as the national dance of Ukraine, hopak was performed exclusively by men in the 15th and 16th centuries during the famous Cossack period. By the 19th century, women had become a regular part of the dance, adding to the vivacious spirit of this Ukrainian hallmark.

CHOREOGRAPHY Colleen West and Jeanette Geslison, with Edwin G. Austin Jr.

MUSIC Traditional; recorded by the Intermountain Symphony Orchestra

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT Tyler Castleton and Daniel Lee



FOLK DANCERS



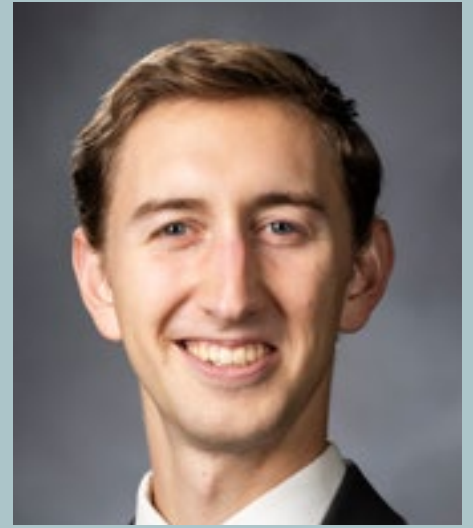
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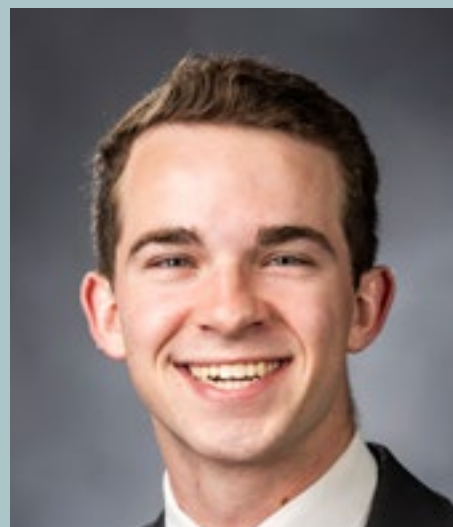
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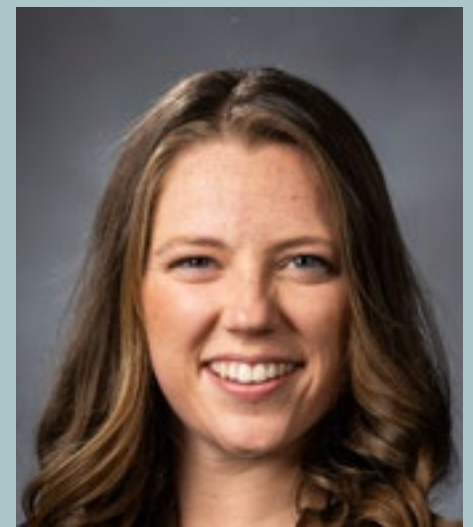
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Emily Hanson
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FOLK DANCERS

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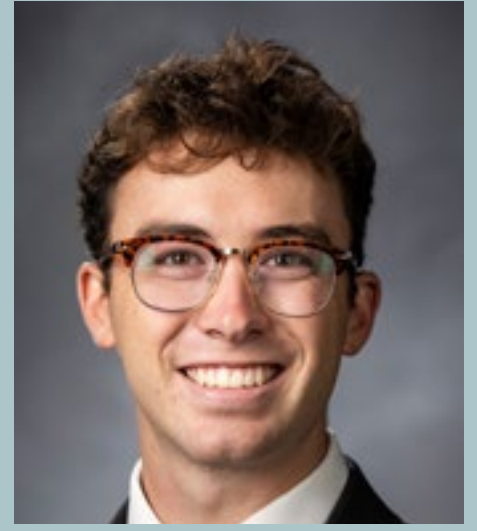
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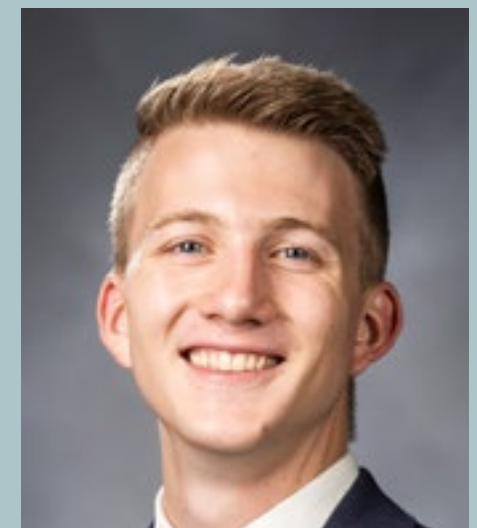
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Savannah Savage
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FOLK DANCERS

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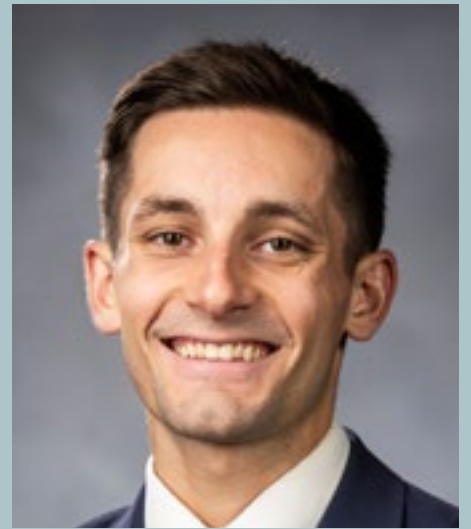
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Carly Wanlass
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Kayla Wong
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Anthony Xanthos
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MOUNTAIN STRINGS



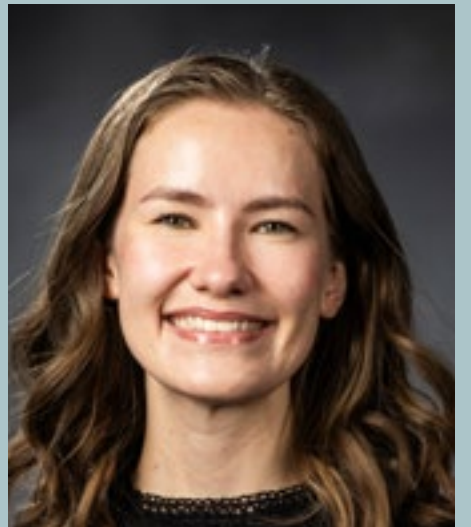
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Mark Geslison
Artistic Director,
Mountain Strings

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Production Manager

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Lighting Designer

Crysta May Lamb
Production
Stage Manager

Erin Dinnell Bjorn
Projection Designer

Troy Sales
Audio Designer

Aniva Bjorn
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Matthew Uppencamp
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INTERNATIONAL
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INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

With a beautiful array of ethnic costumes and props, BYU's International Folk Dance Ensemble presents a program of dances from more than 10 nations, including China, India, Ukraine, Mexico, Türkiye, and the United States.

Since 1964, the ensemble has represented the United States and American culture at folk dance festivals throughout the world, including the festival held in conjunction with the 1988 Seoul Olympics and the opening ceremony of the 2002 Salt Lake Olympics. In addition, the group regularly presents its international repertoire throughout the United States and Canada. International Folk Dance Ensemble is highly acclaimed for its skillful dancing, artistry, and energy.

Stay connected with [@BYUFolkDance](#)

TAP TO VISIT



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MOUNTAIN STRINGS

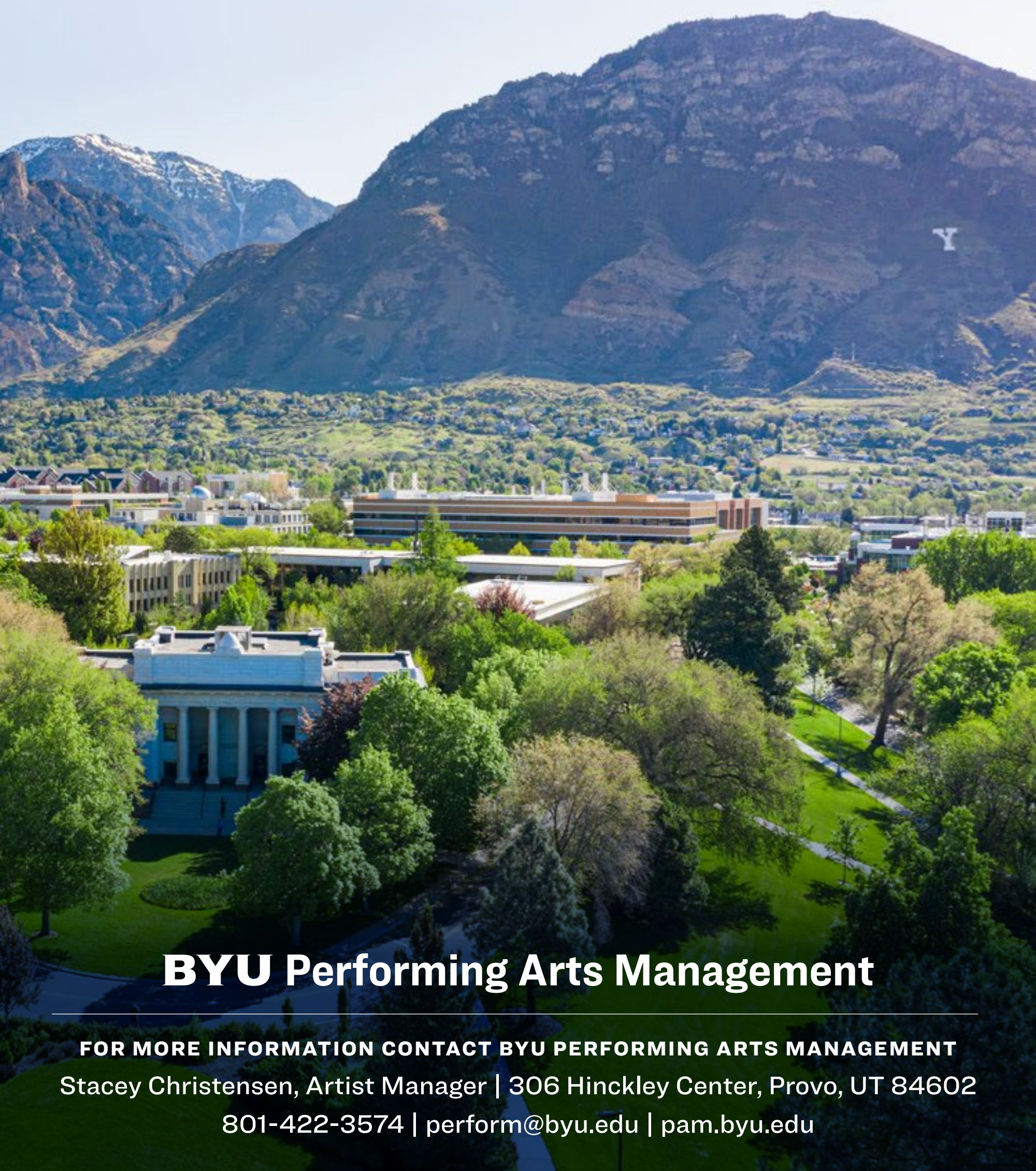
Mountain Strings is composed of talented musicians, who perform on a variety of traditional folk instruments, including fiddle, mandolin, banjo, dulcimer, piano, guitar, bass, and accordion. These instrumentalists also double as vocalists and percussionists, keeping rhythm on unique instruments like cajon, bones, spoons, and bodhran (a Celtic drum). In addition to performing, the group enjoys educating its audiences about the history of the music they play and the historical importance of the group's remarkable instruments.

Stay connected with [@BYUMountainStrings](#) TAP TO VISIT



BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

Nestled between Utah Lake and the Rocky Mountains, Brigham Young University seeks to develop students of faith, intellect, and character who are committed to learning and serving throughout their lives. Both highly ranked and highly affordable, BYU is a major research institution that offers global opportunities for experiential learning. The university is home to about 35,000 students who come from more than 100 countries. Founded by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, BYU strives to be an exceptional university for the benefit of the world.



BYU Performing Arts Management

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