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UNIVERSITY
PRESENTS



SEASONS

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PROLOGUE

CHOREOGRAPHY *Nathan Balser*

MUSIC *"Seasons Prologue," by Sam Cardon*

OPENER

"Long ago in a land across the great waters, our ancient father had a dream. In his dream the Great Spirit came to our father and carried him away on wings of fire. The Spirit told our father he would lead him to a new land—a place of bounty, a promised land—for he had walked in truth and in light in all seasons."

"So begins the legend. It is the story of the seasons of a people: seasons of faith and prosperity, pride and war, forgiveness and rebirth; seasons known to all people, in all nations, from the beginning of time. We invite you to journey with us through this timeless legend. It is our story. It is your story."

—Janielle Christensen

MUSIC *Janielle Christensen,
arranged by Sam Cardon*



North America

PLAINS

Eagle

The eagle, which flies highest and nearest to our Creator, is sacred to natives of North America. Embodying strength, courage, and wisdom, the eagle shows us that we have the ability to develop the same qualities. This Eagle dance honors the story of creation and beginning.

CHOREOGRAPHY *Treygan Bragg*

MUSIC *"Eagle" (traditional)*

SEASON OF PROMISE

Paraguay

Isla Saka

Isla Saka is a rural locality within the department (state) of Caazapá in Paraguay. The author created this musical composition to always remember the sounds of his beloved land, his promised land. Isla Saka reminds all of us of our beloved land, where we come from, our heritage, and we celebrate it with this dance.

CHOREOGRAPHY *Aileen Villalba*

MUSIC *"Isla Saka," by Santiago Cortesi, arranged by Sergio Sanabria*

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

Whakaeke: He Tātai Whetū ki te Rangi /

Waiata ā Ringa and Poi: He Kāinga Hou /

Haka: He Aka Tangata

The ancestors call the young travelers to traverse the waters to a new land. As they face trials and challenges, they are reminded to hold continually and to not fear death. Chaos and confusion cannot reign as the travelers are lovingly reminded, "You are descended from celestial beings."

CHOREOGRAPHY *Seamus Fitzgerald, Karly Nikora, Ta'afili Sagapolutele*

MUSIC *"Whakaeke," by Seamus Fitzgerald; "Waiata," by Iraia Bailey, Seamus Fitzgerald, arranged by Jackson Kaka, accompanied by Dezhane Te Hira-Ika; "Haka," by Seamus Fitzgerald, performed live*



North America

PLAINS

Grass

As the men perform the Omaha Grass dance, the dancers imitate the movement of the tall, flowing, sweet grass—symbolizing the connection between humanity and nature. Their story is one of laying a pathway to keep others safe as they follow. It reminds us that as we follow the path, we can find joy by traveling with others.

CHOREOGRAPHY *Aaron Xanthos*

MUSIC *"Guns and Thunder," by Walking Buffalo*

SEASON OF PLENTY

Ecuador

San Juanito

In the city of Otavalo, the community comes together each summer for the festival of San Juanito. As food and music fill the air, all come to celebrate and rejoice.

CHOREOGRAPHY

Ben Lopez

MUSIC *"El Ponchito,"
by Giovanni Tabango*



Tonga

Me'etu'upaki / Hiva Afa 'o Vaea

The story begins with Me'etu'upaki, one of Tonga's most ancient dances, traditionally performed by men wielding paki (paddles). Once offered as a sacred prayer of gratitude to the Great Spirit, this dance reminds us that all blessings flow from that divine source. It transitions seamlessly into Hiva Afa 'o Vaea, a joyful song and dance that celebrates thanksgiving and the spirit of rejoicing.

CHOREOGRAPHY *Sia Tonga, Walter Tonga*

MUSIC *"Me'etu'upaki," "Hiva Afa 'o Vaea," by Sia Tonga*

Venezuela

Danza Nacionalista: Joropo

Music and movement come together in a festive expression of the Venezuelan llanos (grasslands). Through the woman's graceful skirt work and the man's powerful zapateado (footwork), the dance celebrates the identity of its people and the enduring spirit of their traditions.

CHOREOGRAPHY *Carlos Garmendia*

MUSIC *"Llano Adentro," by William Macualo*

North America

DINÉ (NAVAJO)

Bow and Arrow

By honoring the stories of past warriors, this dance reverences the bow and arrow for providing sustenance and protection. As the dancers face different corners, they keep the balance of the four sacred directions. They are admonished to "dance in beauty."

CHOREOGRAPHY *Jerad*

Todacheenie

MUSIC *"Santa Ana Bow and Arrow Dance," by Ed Lee Natay*



SEASON OF PROSPERITY

Hawai'i

Kahiko

Pūnana ka Manu, composed by the revered kumu hula (dance teacher) George Na'ope, is a hula that honors prosperity, growth, and the uplifting spirit of Hula Mai—to dance and to thrive. Translating to “the nest of the bird,” this dance symbolizes a place of nurturing and abundance, where life and culture are tended with care until they take flight. Through its graceful motions and poetic imagery, Pūnana ka Manu reminds us that hula is not only a dance but a living expression of vitality and renewal—carrying our traditions ever upward like a bird soaring into the light.

CHOREOGRAPHY *Kamahiwa Kawa'a, Luana Kawa'a*

MUSIC *“Pūnana ka Manu,” by George Na'ope*

Bolivia

Caporales

The story of the dance Caporales is one of celebrating the sacrifice of those who have gone before. In their honor, the caporales (foremen) use their elaborate costume to represent the strength and pride that has grown from within.

CHOREOGRAPHY *Gabriela Grajeda, Diandra Saravia, Ricardo Tolentino*

MUSIC *“La Fiesta de San Benito,” by Inti-Illimani; “La Saya,” “Soy Caporal,” by Tupay*



North America

Men and Women's Fancy

The Women's Fancy dance tells the story of the powerful crow and the emergence of the butterfly as they learn to stretch their wings and fly. As they take flight, they begin a new direction in life. The Men's Fancy dance exemplifies the strength and honor of Native American people. The spins and quick movements of this dance show the unity we must have to move forward together.

CHOREOGRAPHY *Melia Acevedo, Treygan Bragg, Kelina Anderson*

MUSIC *"Men's Fancy," by Eyabay; "Mr. Fast," by Bear Creek; "Men's Northern Fancy Pt. 2," by North Bear*

Argentina

Malambo

The Malambo dancer is a master of footwork. Combining rhythm, agility, speed, and strength, dancers build upon the energy of the drum. Though traditionally performed as a men's number, this powerful choreography tells the story that strength and agility are found in us all.

CHOREOGRAPHY

Diego Franco, Pablo Daniel

MUSIC *Traditional, arranged by Diego Franco, performed by Marcos Falcon*



SEASON OF WAR

North America

HAUDENOSAUNEE (IROQUOIS)

War and Smoke

As the dancers hear the call to battle, the warriors prepare using the competitive War dance. The energy builds as men and women join in the quick and athletic Smoke dance to celebrate, give thanks, and connect to Mother Earth, the Great Spirit, and each other.

CHOREOGRAPHY *Kaika Cole, Treygan Bragg*

MUSIC *"Iroquois War and Smoke" (traditional), recorded by Bill Crouse*

Tahiti

'Ote'a

Poiri a'era te fenua i te tamai: The earth became darkened by war. As they dance to the beats of traditional Tahitian drums, the dancers unfold the story of two villages in battle through the fast, sharp, and graceful movements of 'ori Tahiti.

CHOREOGRAPHY *Malia Tafua*

MUSIC *Traditional, recorded by Alan Tekurio*



México

AZTEC

Kuitlaxokotl Tlauili

The Kuitlaxokotl Tlauili dance is a representation of the people of Aztlan, named the Aztecs. Their ritual sounds were considered the voice of the gods. Through their beautiful music and corporal movements, we experience the story of “the fruit of light,” reminding us to seek the light through Mother Earth and spiritual connection in times of darkness.

CHOREOGRAPHY

Gabriela Ampuero

MUSIC “Kuitlaxokotl Tlauili (Fruit of Light),” by Los Hermanos de los Andes



SEASON OF REBIRTH

Hawai'i

Hula Auana

This beautiful Auana speaks of the unwavering love of those yearning to be with those who are dear to their hearts. As they go before in battle, they reminisce on the times that are truly cherished with loved ones. Through a graceful portrayal of motions and expression, the Polynesian women represent a love given and sent away.

CHOREOGRAPHY *Rolanda Mohala Reese, Ave Ka'ua'olikokalani Tauvao, Fili Koali'ikukama'ehu Sagapolutele*

MUSIC “Ke Alaula,” originally performed by Makaha Sons; recorded by Kamalei Kawa'a

North America

OJIBWE, PONCA

Jingle

To the Ojibwe tribe, the Jingle dance is a dance of healing. As the women dancers move, they send prayers to the heavens.

CHOREOGRAPHY

Kelina Anderson

MUSIC: "Jingle Dress Straight,"
by Grey Buffalo



Samoa

Falealili

The spirit of the Samoan people is encapsulated in the anthem of Falealili. This inspiring expression of pride, courage, unity, and love for the homeland is retold in the grace and beauty of the Siva Samoa.

CHOREOGRAPHY Auro Sosi and Helaman Sosi

MUSIC "Vii o Falealili x Taupou o Samoa," by Kaioz

Sāsā

Through this dance, the customs and livelihood of the Samoan people are represented.

CHOREOGRAPHY Aljay Fuimaono

MUSIC "Sāsā" (traditional), performed live

Puleono i Salafai

This song represents celebration and independence. The singers rejoice with happiness and passion.

CHOREOGRAPHY Helaman Sosi, Aryanna Bush, Moni Tiatia

MUSIC Traditional, performed live

México

JALISCO

Popurrí de Jalisco

The energetic music and dance from the state of Jalisco capture the soul of México. The powerful and patriotic movements tell the story of grace and elegance combined with power and love for one's home.

CHOREOGRAPHY Ben Lopez, Celeste Escarzaga-Martinez

MUSIC "Tema y Popurrí de Toros," by Mariachi Sol de Mexico; "El Son de La Negra," by Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlán



North America

Hoop

The hoop symbolizes eternity to many nations. As a child learns to dance the Hoop dance, they begin with only one hoop until, over time, they master many hoops. As they do, dancers learn to share the creations of Mother Earth and the power of the Great Spirit through their dance.

CHOREOGRAPHY Treygan Bragg

MUSIC "Blast from the Past," by Northern Cree

FINALE: Go, My Son

A wise chief teaches that family and education are the keys to success and happiness.

CHOREOGRAPHY Moni Tiatia

MUSIC "Go, My Son," by Carnes Burson, Arlene Nofchissey Williams, arranged by Sam Cardon

Performers



Kiki Adolpho
Native Section
Junior
Exercise Science



Ammon Anderson
Native Section
Sophomore
Exercise Science



Alejandro Benjamin Garcia
Latin Section
Junior
Civil Engineering



Isa Benjamin Garcia
Latin Section
Senior
Health Science



Treygan Bragg
Native Section
Senior
Biology



Erick Cardenas Hinojosa
Latin Section
Junior
Physics



Kiarra Casey
Polynesian Section
Freshman
Biochemistry



Alema Ebana
Polynesian Section
Junior
Economics



Celeste Escarzaga
Latin Section
Sophomore
Pre-Business



Ka'ena Fermantez
Polynesian Section
Junior
Experience Design & Management



Jerrhan First Charger
Native Section
Freshman
Pre-Music



Ivan Galán Vintimilla
Latin Section
Sophomore
Information Systems

Performers

CONTINUED



Yhneli Garcia-Aguilar

Latin Section
Junior
Family Studies



Niyana Harris

Native Section
Freshman
Dance BFA



Sierra Horrocks

Native Section
Freshman
Nursing



Ben Lopez

Latin Section
Senior
Cultural Anthropology



Melia Losik

Native Section
Senior
Health Science



Brandon Malu

Polynesian Section
Junior
Construction Management



Lesieli Malu

Polynesian Section
Senior
Psychology



Angelee Marshall

Native Section
Junior
Information Systems



Kellsie Mena

Latin Section
Junior
Entrepreneurial Management



Leah Neria

Polynesian Section
Junior
Family Studies



Derick Ortiz

Latin Section
Junior
Applied Math



Sage Purcell

Polynesian Section
Senior
Media & Society

Performers

CONTINUED



Koa Reyes
Native Section
Freshman
Mechanical Engineering



Helaman Sosi
Polynesian Section
Senior
Public Relations



Joshua Tonga
Polynesian Section
Sophomore
Political Science



Iafeta Toso
Polynesian Section
Junior
Facility & Property Management



Sarai Tuitele
Polynesian Section
Junior
Early Childhood Education



Vikita Junior Tupou
Polynesian Section
Junior
Construction Management



Isabella Villalobos
Latin Section
Sophomore
Psychology



Aaron Xanthos
Native Section
Senior
Exercise Science



Chris Xanthos
Native Section
Freshman
International Relations



Samantha Yesslith
Native Section
Sophomore
Sociology



Axel Zivic Calabria
Latin Section
Senior
Political Science



Melanie Zivic Calabria
Latin Section
Senior
Political Science

Technical Crew



Allison Bertasso
Lighting Technician
Senior
Theatre Arts Studies



Kathryn Bowe
Stage Manager
Senior
Biology



Erica Flynn
Deck Crew
Junior
Illustration



Lyamca Mañon
Deck Crew
Sophomore
Advertising



Alex Southworth
Audio Technician
Senior
Commercial Music

Production Team

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **Moni Tiatia**
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR **Kevin Anthony**
PRODUCTION MANAGER **Benjamin Sanders**
TECHNICAL SUPPORT **John Shurtleff**
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER **Crysta May Lamb**
LIGHTING DESIGNER **McKenzie Wise**
PROJECTION DESIGNER **Erin Bjorn**
COSTUME DESIGNER **Aryanna Brown**
COSTUME SHOP MANAGER **Dawn Maughan**

REHEARSAL DIRECTORS
Kaika Cole, Aileen Villalba
COSTUME SHOP STAFF
Allison Farnsworth,
Amanda Alley,
Marianne Thompson,
Nina Perkins
ARTIST MANAGER **Taylor Morris**
SOUND DESIGNER **Troy Sales**

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Every performance tells a story. Every step, song, and rhythm honors generations past and inspires those to come. Your generous support enables the talented BYU students of Living Legends to preserve and honor their rich cultures, build meaningful connections across the globe, and uplift the rising generation.



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Living Legends

Celebrating more than 50 years of inspiring performances, Living Legends presents *Storytellers*, a depiction of a young man as he is guided through life by the stories of his ancestors, told through their music and dance. As the talented performers take the stage, they capture the powerful rhythms of Polynesia, portray the fascinating legends of Native America, and dazzle the senses with the energy of Latin America. The group's lavish attire and intricate choreography are authentic representations of the showcased cultures.

Living Legends had the pleasure of performing in México in 2022 and in New Zealand and Tahiti in 2023, places where many ancestors of group members have lived. In addition to these locations, Living Legends has performed in almost all 50 US states and many places throughout the world, including recent tours in Canada, China, Brazil, and France.

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



Living Legends

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