

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY *presents*

International Folk Dance Ensemble

Journey

**2021
Livestream
Program**





Journey



Any wanderer will tell you that there is something magical about discovering new places and old traditions.

Journey is a 90-minute voyage of dance and music through the heartbeat of the world’s cultures. In this show you will see Irish hard shoe, American clogging, Ukrainian hopak, Indian bhangra, and much more. Experiencing the ensemble’s furious footwork, pulsing rhythms, live music, and vibrant costumes will leave you with a special kind of wanderlust.

So throw off the bowlines and catch the wind in your sails as our companion on this *Journey*.



Opener

Staging: Jeanette Geslison

India: Bhangra

Traditionally a men’s Punjabi harvest dance accompanied by the infectious rhythm of the dhol drum, bhangra is now danced at celebrations, performances, and competitions worldwide. This work includes the traditional wooden sapp.

Choreography: Greg and Sally Rawlings
Music: “Bhangra” (Gypsy Aujla), recorded by Saini Surinder

India: Discowale

Bollywood, the famed film industry based in Mumbai, India, is characterized by elaborate musical numbers, love triangles, and melodrama. This dance style combines traditional Indian dance with Western movement, such as hip hop.

Choreography: Greg and Sally Rawlings
Music: “Discowale Khisko” (Pritam Chakraborty), recorded by Krishnakumar Kunnath, Sunidhi Chauhan, and Rana Mazumder
Soloists: Natasha Keckley/McKenna Wright, Ian Woodward, and Emmett Madsen

USA: Two Dollar Bill

Music: “Two Dollar Bill” (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings

Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison and Mountain Strings

USA: Boot Kickin’

Country-western line and swing dancing includes many dance styles and traditional steps such as the cowboy cha-cha, two-step, vine, heel digs, lifts, and spins. Influenced by the American cowboy culture, this type of dancing is also known as “kicker dancing” in Texas.

Choreography: Colleen West, Lyndsey Wulfenstein, and Garrett Madril

Music: “Crave Ice Cream” (Mark Geslison); performed by Mountain Strings

USA: Western Wildfire

A precision style dance featuring both traditional clogging and the latest power tap steps.

Choreography: Greg and Maria Tucker

Music: “Cluck Old Hen” and “Cuckoo’s Nest” (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings

Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

USA: Texas Fandango

Representing the American West, this theatrical characterization of the American cowboy underneath the starlit sky shows him at his dancin’ best, kickin’ up a little dust.

Choreography: Delynne Peay

Music: “Home on the Range” (traditional), “The Eighth of January” (traditional), “Soldier’s Joy” (traditional), and “Clinch Mountain Backstep” (Ralph Stanley); performed by Mountain Strings

Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison

Mexico: Fandango Veracruzano

The music and dance of Veracruz blends Spanish, African, and Caribbean rhythms. Old is made new, including the timeless la 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: Lauren Ashby and Isaiah Vela



USA: The Breakaway Bug

A Lindy-style tap dance.

Choreography: Jacob Madsen

Music: “Beaumont Rag” (traditional); performed by Isaac Geslison and Alex Swindler

Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison, Isaac Geslison, and Alex Swindler

Soloists: Lauren Ashby and Emmanuel Valdez

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 at 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 and Mountain Strings

Indonesia: Saman

This dance form originates from the Gayo people of Aceh in northern Sumatra. Traditionally performed for national or religious celebrations, the dance unifies villages as groups exchange performances one with another. The Saman dance tradition includes live singing by the performers with lyrics that tell folk tales to give counsel or offer spiritual enlightenment. Often referred to as the “dance of a thousand hands,” the dancers sit in a long line and produce shifting rhythms with their hands.

Choreography: Rustin Van Katwyk

Music: “Hai Jala” and “Hayla Hotsa” (traditional); performed by the dancers

Percussion: Peyton Ford and Casey Geslison

Ireland: St. Anne’s Reel

Music: “St. Anne’s Reel” (traditional)
Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison and Mountain Strings

Ireland: A Lovely Madness

This suite of dances features the lyrical beauty of the women’s slip jig danced in 9/8 time, followed with a light jig danced in 6/8 time that presents the strength of the men. The energetic soft and hard shoe double reel finish the suite, typifying the precision and formations of Irish figure dancing.

Choreography: Tara Reid-O’Brien
Music: “Mister Molly’s” (Beoga), “Canbrack Girls” (Eileen Ivers), and “Fiddler’s Despair” (Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy); performed by Mountain Strings
Soloist: Kierica McPherson

PAUSE

Live music by Mountain Strings

USA: Cumberland Gap

Music: “Cumberland Gap” (traditional)
Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison and Mountain Strings

USA: Why Don’t You Love Me (Like You Used to Do)

Music: “Why Don’t You Love Me (Like You Used to Do)” (Hank Williams)
Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison and Mountain Strings

China: The Children of Snow Mountain

The faraway snow-capped mountains of Tibet stand unpolluted above the plateau. Freshly fallen snow—so clean, so pure, so free—inspires the children to embrace simplicity and kindness in their hearts.

Choreography: Su Yafei
Music: “Daguo Snow Folk Songs” (Zhanian Charm), recorded by ChangMi; “LaMuMeiDuo” (Zhiwang Sangju), recorded by Zhiwang LanGeBu Original Band

USA: Keep on the Sunny Side

Music: “Keep on the Sunny Side” (Ada Blenkhorn and J. Howard Entwisle);
performed by Mountain Strings

Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison and Mountain Strings

Serbia: Igre iz Šumadije

The central region of Šumadija is considered to be the heartland of Serbia. Known for its rolling hills, dense forests, and fruit orchards, its pastoral landscapes have heavily influenced the cultural lifestyle. This representation is set in a village square where the young men and women gather to dance with the Kolo musicians.

Choreography: Milorad Runjo

Restaging: Michael Malich

Music: “Baričko Kolo,” “Kriva Kučka,” “Osmica,” “Žikino Kolo,” “Rudnicanko,”
and “Gadica” (traditional), recorded by Old Serbian Sounds

China: Mo Li Hua

“Mo Li Hua,” meaning “jasmine flower,” is 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

Hungary: Élő Fény

Men’s dances from the village of Méhkerék are much loved. This slapping and clapping style with very intricate rhythmic patterns is favored on the stage by numerous professional Hungarian dance ensembles.

Choreography: Gary Larsen

Jews harp: Isaac Geslison

Russia: Matryoshka

Traditional Russian nesting dolls are brought to life in this lively character dance.

Choreography: Jeanette Geslison

Music: “Barynya” (traditional), recorded and arranged by National Dance
Company of Siberia Orchestra

USA: I'll Fly Away

Music: "I'll Fly Away" (Albert E. Brumley); performed by Mountain Strings
Musical Arrangement: Mark Geslison and Mountain Strings

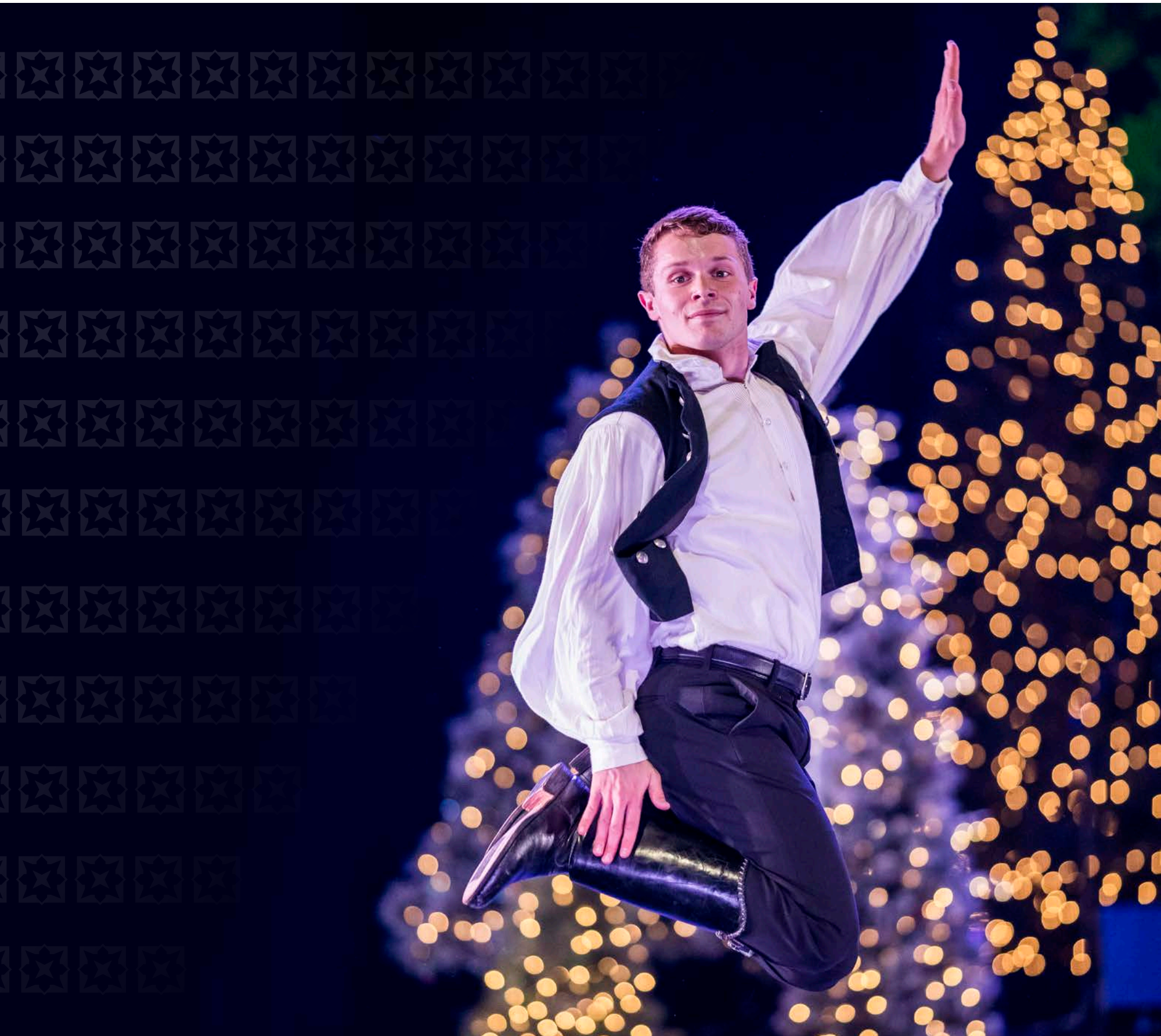
Ireland: Irish Blessing

Music: Geoff Groberg
Lyrics: Traditional

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 Edwin G. Austin Jr.
Restaging: Jeanette Geslison
Music: Traditional, recorded by the Intermountain Symphony Orchestra
Musical Arrangement: Tyler Castleton and Daniel Lee



Dancers



Colin Anderson



Dallin Arnold



Laura Arnold



Lauren Ashby



Dawson Collins



Clark DeFranco



Whitnee Forest



Elise Glover



Ashley Jex



Natasha Keckley



Hannah Kooyman



Emmett Madsen

Dancers (continued)



Shayne Mann



Teagan Mann



Kierica McPherson



Tyler Persson



Victoria Rimington



David Stone



Halle Tucker



Emmanuel Valdez



Isaiah Vela



Ian Woodward



McKenna Wright



Anthony Xanthos

Mountain Strings



Aubree Carroll



Haley Dansie



Casey Geslison



Isaac Geslison



Peyton Gleave



Quinn Gleave



Alex Swindler

Production and Administration

Jeanette Geslison,
Artistic Director

Mark Geslison,
Mountain Strings Director

Teresa Love,
Scriptwriter

Benjamin Sanders,
Production Manager

Mark Ohran,
*Technical Director/
Lighting Designer*

Crysta Lamb,
Production Stage Manager

Erin Dinnell Bjorn,
Projection Designer

Troy Sales,
Sound Designer

Ashley Johnson,
Production Assistant

Henry Young,
Stage Manager

Patrick Egbert,
Jennifer Saldova,
Deck Crew

Celia Linford,
Lighting Board Operator

Tiffany Parker,
Sound Board Operator

Jacob Payne,
Video Switcher

Stephanie Breinholt,
Voice-Over

Frank Frederick,
Voice-Over

Jacob Madsen,
Rehearsal Assistant

Amy Handy,
Costumer

Amanda Alley,
Assistant Costumer

Jaren Wilkey,
Photography

Adam Johnson,
Graphic Designer

Erin McClellan,
Public Relations Coordinator

Brenda Critchfield,
Dance Medicine Trainer

International Folk Dance Ensemble

Throughout the past six decades, the International Folk Dance Ensemble has traveled around the globe performing traditional dances selected from more than 40 cultures worldwide. As an emissary of the United States and American culture, the group has become internationally famous. In 2021 the ensemble plans to represent the United States in the World Folkloriada held in Ufa, Russia, which will involve as many as 82 countries.

The ensemble is accompanied by the versatile acoustic band Mountain Strings. The musicians bring the dances to life with their driving folk rhythms. The International Folk Dance Ensemble is produced by the Department of Dance at Brigham Young University.

Brigham Young University

Intensive learning in a stimulating setting—nurturing the mind, body, and spirit—is central to the mission of Brigham Young University. Cradled between the Rocky Mountains and Utah Lake, BYU was founded in 1875 by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The approximately 33,000 full-time students who attend BYU come from all 50 states and more than 100 countries. BYU's faculty numbers around 1,700. The university offers about 180 bachelor's degrees, more than 80 master's degrees, and some 30 doctoral degrees.

**For more information contact
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BYU Folk Dance



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BYU International Folk Dance