



BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

**INTERNATIONAL FOLK  
DANCE ENSEMBLE**

*presents*

JOURNEY  
REFLECTIONS

FEB. 10 - 7:30PM • FEB. 11 - 2:00PM & 7:30PM  
RICHARDS BUILDING DANCE PERFORMANCE THEATRE



# JOURNEY REFLECTIONS

*Journey: Reflections* shares strength from the past through traditional music and dance. Join the dancers for 90 minutes as they portray cultures from all over the world. Experiencing the ensemble's furious footwork, pulsing rhythms, live music, and vibrant costumes will leave you with a special kind of wanderlust. Through a variety of dances—American clogging, Irish step dance, Indian folk fusion, Ukrainian hopak, and more—*Journey: Reflections* invites all to look back and reflect on the path that has shaped us into who we are today and to find unity in differences. Despite their diverse appearances, the dances exemplify how we all have the same human experiences. Let's commit to reach out in wonder as we reflect together.

## OPENER: REFLECTIONS

### USA: Traveler

As settlers on the American frontier, our ancestors believed in working hard and playing hard. This rendition of a turn-of-the-century celebration displays the enthusiasm and freedom that helped build the character of the USA.

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Jeanette Geslison

**MUSIC:** "Arkansas Traveler" (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings

**MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT:** Dean Marshall

### USA: Cluck Old Hen

**MUSIC:** "Cluck Old Hen" (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings

**MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT:** Mark Geslison

## USA: Western Wildfire

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

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Greg Tucker and Maria Tucker

**MUSIC:** "Cluck Old Hen" (traditional); "Cuckoo's Nest" (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings

**MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT:** Mark Geslison

## USA: Orphan Girl

**MUSIC:** "Orphan Girl" (Gillian Welch); performed by Mountain Strings

**MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT:** Mark Geslison and Mountain Strings

## Romania: Călușul

*Căluș* is a ritual dance with origins dating back to Roman times, performed each spring between Easter and Pentecost, primarily in southern Romania. The *Călușari* are oath-bound men who travel from house to house to bless people and crops for the upcoming year. They dance over children and sick people to cure illness and promote health, and each courtyard ritual ends with a village *hora*. They wear red to ward off the evil eye and use the sound of bells and spurs to frighten away evil spirits, called *iele*.

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Joseph Kroupa, with Cristian Florescu

**MUSIC:** Traditional; recorded by the Chișinău Folk Ensemble



## Romania: Plaiuri Oltenești

These two vigorous women's dances are from the region of Oltenia: Sârba pe loc and Hora și Mereul.

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Sonia Dion and Cristian Florescu

**MUSIC:** Traditional; recorded by Ansamblul Uniunea Tineretului Comunist

## Wales: Dawns y Glocsen

"Dawns y Glocsen" is a light-hearted clog dance featuring young lads performing on and around wooden platforms. It was common to see young men in the local taverns dancing on tables to produce livelier sounds than could be made from the earthen floor.

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Owen H. Robert

**ADAPTATION AND ADDITIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY:** Edwin G. Austin Jr.

**SOLOISTS:** Dawson Collins, Nate Cox, and Daniel Owen

## Ireland: Hornpipe Set

Irish hard shoe step dancing is part of a long tradition in Ireland. This set dance is a hornpipe played in 4/4 time signature and is ornamented with intricate step dance rhythms. This dance is an example of the "Open Championship Level" of Irish dance competitions.

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Brielle Anderson

**MUSIC:** "Madame Bonaparte" (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings

**SOLOISTS:** Brielle Anderson, Victoria Rimington, and Brigham Vargha

## England: Rapper Sword

Part of the Morris dance family, rapper (flexible sword) dancing originated in coal-mining communities of Northumberland and Durham, England. Traditionally, men weave intricate patterns whilst comic characters "Tommy" and "Betty" try to join in the fun.

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** English Folk Dance and Song Society

**ADAPTATION AND ADDITIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY:** Edwin G. Austin Jr.

**MUSIC:** Traditional; performed by Ellie Geslison

**DANCERS:** Levi Hancock, McKay Jessop, Nathan Jex, David Stone, and Spencer Waddell

**SOLOISTS:** Kye Davis and Rhen Davis





## 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:** Miquel Peña

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

**SOLOISTS:** Victoria Rimington and Daniel Owen

## USA: Wagoner’s Lad

**MUSIC:** “Wagoner’s Lad” (traditional), performed by Mountain Strings

**MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT:** Mark Geslison and Mountain Strings

## India: Terah Taali

Terah Taali is a folk dance of the Kamar tribe from the state of Rajasthan, India. It is performed during the Pushkar Fair by the women using special metal hand cymbals called manjeeras. The dance is done in the praise of Hindu deity Baba Ramdev Pir.

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Vaishali Sagar

**MUSIC:** Traditional; performed by Asfak Khawra (dhol) and Samir Langa (singer); recorded by Nitin Wadekar





## India: Ganesha

This choreography is a folk-fusion piece based on Lord Ganesha, the lord of good luck, who is half elephant and half human. This piece depicts how he is worshipped in the home and celebrated in the streets for 10 days every year during the festival of Ganesh Chaturthi in the state of Maharashtra.

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Vaishali Sagar

**MUSIC:** Traditional; performed by Asfak Khawra (dhol) and Samir Langa (singer); recorded by Nitin Wadekar

## MUSICAL INTERLUDE

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## Hungary: Dulandlé

In Kalotaszeg, Transylvania, a dulandlé was placed on the head of a new wife until the birth of her first child. A dulandlé is a fine, white veil with embroidery around the edges. This choreographic work portrays the emotional state of a young girl preparing for marriage, accompanied by the beautiful and distinct dances of the Kalotaszeg region. The spectacular men's dance—the competitive legényes, often considered in Hungary to be the "king of dances"—is accompanied by two types of couples' dances: the csárdás, which is perhaps the quintessential Hungarian couples' dance, and the quick csárdás (szapora), which manifests speed and virtuosity.

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Juhász Zsolt

**MUSIC:** Traditional; recorded by Göncöl band

**MUSIC ARRANGEMENT:** Kelemen László



## 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

**JEW'S HARP:** Tyler Anderson

## China: Mo Li Hua

Mo Li Hua, meaning jasmine, 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 : After You've Gone

**MUSIC:** "After You've Gone" (Turner Layton); performed by Mountain Strings

**MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT:** Mark Geslison and Mountain Strings

## USA: The Breakaway Bug

This Lindy-style tap dance hearkens back to the Jazz Age.

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Jacob Madsen

**MUSIC:** "Beaumont Rag" (traditional); performed by Mountain Strings

**MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT:** Mark Geslison

**SOLOISTS:** Rhen Davis and Victoria Rimington / Nathan Jex and Abby Whipple







## **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

## **Tonga: Ha'ele Ki Pilitania**

The tau'olunga, a traditional Tongan dance still performed today, can be presented at any special occasion. Most often performed by an individual young woman or a small group of girls, the dance consists of hand movements which interpret the meaning of the song. This tau'olunga is a tribute to Tongan dynasties of the past, and tells the story of Queen Salote Tupou III who managed to make a name for herself at Queen Elizabeth II's coronation parade. Despite the pouring rain, Queen Salote chose to ride in an uncovered carriage as a sign of respect for the new British Monarch. "Ha'ele Ki Pilitania" reflects Queen Salote's legacy of traditional Tongan respect, passed down through generations.

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Valeti Mapuna A Vaiola Sekona

**MUSIC:** "Ha'ele Ki Pilitania" (Peni Tutu'ila Malupō) and "Hala Kuo Papa" (Queen Salote Tupou III), recorded by BLKB3RY



## Norway: Tretur

The hardanger fiddle (hardingfele), a special Norwegian instrument, is featured on this piece. Unique to western Norwegian folk music, this instrument has five additional strings underneath the bowed strings to create resonance. This music is accompanied by a Schottish couple dance.

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Jeanette Geslison

**MUSIC:** "Tretur" (Ale Carr/Dreamers' Circus); performed by Mountain Strings

**MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT:** Mark Geslison and Mountain String

## Ireland: Irish Blessing

**MUSIC:** "Irish Blessing" (Geoff Groberg); performed by Mountain Strings

**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 Jeanette Geslison, with Edwin G. Austin Jr.

**MUSIC:** Traditional; recorded by the Intermountain Symphony Orchestra

**MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT:** Tyler Castleton and Daniel Lee





# PERFORMERS



**Brielle Anderson**

Family Studies  
Provo, UT



**Kelsey Christensen**

Elementary  
Education  
Hillsboro, OR



**Dawson Collins**

Applied and  
Computational  
Mathematics  
Rexburg, ID



**Remington Comp**

History  
Cedar City, UT



**Nathan Cox**

Actuarial Science  
American Fork, UT



**Kye Davis**

Microbiology  
Flagstaff, AZ



**Rhen Davis**

Neuroscience  
Flagstaff, AZ



**Braden Duke**

Cybersecurity  
Bountiful, UT

continued





# PERFORMERS

(continued)



**Crozier Fitzgerald**  
Exercise Science  
Rexburg, ID



**Elise Glover**  
Psychology  
Kokomo, IN



**Levi Hancock**  
Physics  
Beavercreek, OH



**Jillian Iverson**  
Dance  
South Jordan, UT



**Clara Jamison**  
Math Education  
Roseville, CA



**Mckay Jessop**  
Cybersecurity  
Sandy, UT



**Nathan Jex**  
Public Health  
Draper, UT



**Hannah Kooyman**  
Exercise Science  
San Diego, CA

continued





# PERFORMERS

(continued)



**Jade Madison**

Dance  
Mobile, AL



**Makeila Latapu  
Morgan**

Human Development  
Sacramento, CA



**Daniel Owen**

Microbiology  
Meridian, ID



**Victoria Rimington**

Advertising  
Mapleton, UT



**KD Salmon**

Communication  
Disorders  
Raymond, Alberta,  
Canada



**David Stone**

Bioinformatics  
Alpine, UT



**Tori Stone**

Editing and  
Publishing  
Provo, UT



**Hanna Storheim**

Experience Design  
and Management  
Farmington, UT

continued





# PERFORMERS

(continued)



**Brigham Vargha**

Media Arts  
Anaheim, CA



**Spencer Waddell**

Dance  
Oregon City, OR



**Abby Whipple**

Social Science  
Teaching  
Provo, UT



**Janelle Wilson**

Dance  
Salt Lake City, UT





# MOUNTAIN STRINGS MUSICIANS



**Tyler Anderson**  
Undeclared  
Roseburg, Oregon



**Madeline Charles**  
Business Marketing  
Lehi, UT



**Ellie Geslison**  
Sociology  
Provo, UT



**Christina Iverson**  
Molecular Biology  
Boston, MA



**Austin Johnson**  
Spanish  
Delaware, OH



**Arthur Prusso**  
Music  
Holladay, UT



**Emily Wall**  
Linguistics  
Gainesville, VA



# 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*

**John Shurtleff**

*Technical Support*

**Erin Dinnell Bjorn**

*Projection Designer*

**Kami Wallin**

*Production Assistant*

**Kaylee Kress**

*Stage Manager*

**Kathryn Bowe**

*Deck Crew*

**Tyler Driggs**

*Deck Crew*

**Hannah Tran**

*Lighting Technician*

**Patrick Egbert**

*Audio Technician*

**Stephanie Breinholt**

*Voice-Over*

**Langi Tuifua**

*Voice-Over*

**Isaiah Vela**

*Rehearsal Assistant*

**Amy Handy**

*Costumer*

**Amanda Alley**

*Assistant Costumer*

**Brielle Anderson**

*Assistant Costumer*

**Elise Glover**

*Assistant Costumer*

**Jaren Wilkey**

*Photography*

**Troy Sales**

*Audio Designer*

**Isaiah Vela**

*Digital Advertising  
Graphic Designer*

**Adam M. Johnson**

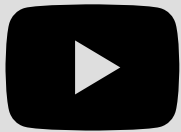
*Program Graphic Designer*

**Brenda Critchfield**

*Dance Medicine Trainer*



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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 Ireland, Romania, India, China, Ukraine, 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. 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.

## 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 among the exceptional universities in the world and an essential university for the world.