

THE FOLK DANCER

International Folk Dance Ensemble, Brigham Young University

Alumni Newsletter

FALL EDITION 2002

Vickie Austin, Editor

This year has already been packed with exciting events: BYU's Dance Devotional, World of Dance (one week at BYU and one week at the SLC Church Conference Center), Homecoming Spectacular, and other special performances. We know that some of you have already seen the group this year, and hope that many of the rest of you will make an effort to be with us in December.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD—A RENDEZVOUS OF NATIONS

This year's Christmas Around the World production, *Rendezvous*, will bring the world together in a celebration that begins with some "American kick!" The concert will be presented December 6th and 7th at 7:30pm, with a matinee on December 7th at 2:00pm. Tickets went on sale the first week of November. Call the Marriott Center, 378-BYU1, or 1-800-322-BYU1. (At this time, better seating is available for the Saturday shows.)

A celebration of American song and dance will open this year's program. Then, new choreography from India, Hungary, and Bulgaria will be premiered. (Those of you who have enjoyed Mekereki Tapsos in the past will want to come to see our new choreography, just completed by Gary Larsen.) The well known BYU group, *Living Legends*, will also be featured as our special guests. They will be performing the dances of Polynesia, including the incredible fire-knife dance. In addition, many of our own favorites from Mexico, the Philippines, South Africa, Romania, Lithuania, Ireland, and Ukraine will ignite the stage, promising to make this year a celebration not to be missed.

In addition, this year's concert will also feature a section from "*Suite of the American West*" seen by millions at the Opening Ceremonies of the Salt Lake Winter Olympic Games. And—for those of you who love *Cry of the Celts*—it's back with a little surprise! We are also working hard for some beautiful lighting and special effects. We hope to see all of you and your families in attendance this year at a concert that will "knock your socks off!"

NEW THIS YEAR!!!

Our special reception for Alumni and special guests will be held in the Cougar Room, **after the Saturday Matinee**. Having it after the matinee allows all of us who have responsibilities with the show to also be there. Here are a couple of suggestions:

Option # 1. Join us at the Saturday matinee. This is always one of the best of the three shows, and you will be able to take advantage of the special family ticket rates.

Option # 2. Join us first for the reception (at approximately 4pm), and then take your family to dinner before joining us for the Saturday evening show.

If you haven't seen the concert in a few years—you just haven't seen it!

IN REMEMBRANCE

We are sad to announce the passing of Alma Heaton. His funeral was held November 5th, 2002. He will be remembered by all of us for his great enthusiasm, his ability to recite verse after verse, and his amazing spirit of fun. He shared his life with everyone who came into contact with him.

Many of us know of his part in beginning the Social Dance Program here at Brigham Young University. Some of you may not know that he was first brought to the university to begin the Program of Recreational Management.

Wherever he went, people laughed, and played, and danced. He will be sorely missed.

WHIRLWIND SUMMER

This past summer has kept each of us very busy—as usual. Here is a quick update.

Susanne has just completed her three-year term as President-Elect, President, and Past-President of the Southwest District of American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance, (AAHPERD). She is now serving as the Southwest District representative to the National Dance Association (NDA).

Ed spent two weeks in Poland and Wales where he continued collecting more Polish costumes and music, taught an Appalachian clogging workshop, and continued his research of Welsh clog .

Colleen spent the summer catching up, traveling with her family, and learning to survive a sixteen year old daughter who now drives.

Delynne completed another successful season in the public schools with the Spring Performing Arts Company. She then spent the summer readying a syllabus for the new Spanish Dance class.

Jeanette spent the summer teaching, and helping her children practice their musical instruments and perfecting their Danish.

Gary began his doctorate program with Limerick University in Ireland, and then returned to Hungary later in the summer to deliver a paper and collect more information on Hungarian dance.

Tara married in May, taught summer term and is expecting baby #1 in March. She hopes to present a paper on Laban Movement Analysis in Taiwan in the near future.

Tina just had her second child, a boy named Caleb. She continues to teach Irish classes at BYU as well as at her own School of Irish Dancing in Orem.

Vickie and Ed toured with the Performing Arts Company for three weeks during July in Missouri, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Virginia. It was an exciting and very productive tour. And their youngest son, Rob, just received his mission call to the North Carolina Charlotte Mission. (His brother, Brent, just returned from the North Carolina Raleigh Mission. What about that!)