

Dancing, Music, Culture, Crafts, Scholarly Presentations - the 2019 NFO Conference will have it all!

This year's NFO national conference will be hosted by Brigham Young University's Department of Dance. Comprised of World Dance, Ballroom, Contemporary and Ballet, BYU enrolls over 5,000 students in dance classes each semester and sponsors five major dance companies who perform worldwide.

The three-day event will offer participants opportunities to interface with professionals from throughout the nation, hear presentations in cultural dance and dance science, participate in dance workshops and parties, view dance performances, and enjoy a guided tour of the BYU campus, its library and dance archives, the dance department's collection of cultural costuming and the Museum of Art.

Dancing and the Brain – The Neurological Effects of Dance. Carrie Ekins is an international educator, presenter, and creator, whose passion for this subject is igniting the world. She is dedicated to educating and creating programs that make a difference and inspire others to seek a positive and healthy lifestyle. Founder of *Drums Alive*, Carrie will present a fun, stimulating lecture demonstration for all to participate in and enjoy.

Dancing, Dancing, Dancing – President's Reception Plus. What's the Plus? It's dancing with NFO conference attendees plus about 200 BYU students, including members of the *International Folk Dance Ensemble* and *Traditionz*. Mix in some good food, meeting new friends and future colleagues, and dancing, and you have all the ingredients for an evening to remember! Be thinking about dances you'd like to request. This is your chance to dance with some of the best.

Do Monkeys Dance? Possibly, but what I do know is that the Balinese *Kecak* is also called the *Monkey Dance*. This ceremonial dance was developed in the 1930s and is performed throughout Bali. Jeremy Grimshaw, an ethnomusicologist who visits Bali to study their culture, will not only discuss the origins, but will also give each of us the opportunity to show our "monkey" side by participating in this unique ritual.

Problems Controlling an Uli Uli or Poi Ball? Kaui Tu'ia can help you with that and may even include some of these items in our Polynesian Dance Workshop. With Hawai'ian ancestry, Kaui has performed Polynesian dance from a very young age. Dancers from BYU's *Living Legends* might even join us for part of the workshop. Members of this dance company must have Native American, Latin American, or Polynesian ancestry. The group performs authentic dances from these specific cultures.

Interested in Attending a Dance Workshop in Ukraine? With the help of her NFO *Discover the Arts* grant, Mary Beth Johnson did just that. She will share her experience and let us know how we can do the same. Perhaps, at some time during the conference, she may share a dance with us.

Connect With Your Ancestors by Dancing in Their Shoes. For over 50 years Laraine Miner has been doing just that. With the assistance of an NFO *Discover the Arts* grant, she recently published her book, *Mormon Pioneer Dances*, featuring 31 authentic pioneer dances. Jessica Jones and her children's group will demonstrate some selected dances from Laraine's research.

Have You Ever Fed a Gamelan? Of course not! A gamelan isn't an animal, it's a musical instrument from Bali which goes back to the 8th century in Java. Because Bali has no equivalent of Middle C or a tuning fork, each gamelan is tuned only to itself. That's especially tricky when a single instrument is comprised of several pieces which need to be tuned together. Each piece is symbolically ornate, usually with gold leaf. We will peek in on a rehearsal of those who play BYU's 32 piece gamelan and Jeremy Grimshaw will demonstrate how it is played.

Sounds of Silk. Lloyd Miller, ethnomusicologist, will display many of his Persian instruments and play beautiful Persian music at our banquet. Lloyd, who plays more than 100 instruments, will be assisted by Katherine St. John. You may see part of his amazing collection while touring the BYU library. This will be your chance to view these instruments up close, and possibly even play a few if you're so inclined.

Folk Music and Storytelling. This is how many groups of people have passed on their culture and traditions from generation to generation. During the Awards Banquet on Friday, Clive Romney will delight us with folk music and the art of storytelling as he introduces us to the settlers of Utah.

Classical Indian Dance and Bollywood. Divya Narayanan, a multifaceted dance artist, will provide a program of beautiful and intricate classical dances from India performed by Divya and dancers from the Divya School of Dance. Now living in Utah, her expertise spans Bharathanatyam, Mohiniattom, Kathakali, the folk dances of India and the phenomenon of Bollywood.

From Pow Wows to Cirque du Soleil to NFO. As a member of BYU's Living Legends, Michael Goedel honed the performance of his Native American Hoop Dance to such a level of skill, precision and artistic beauty that Cirque du Soleil hired him to perform with them. We are thrilled to have him performing his Hoop Dance at our banquet.

Mitakuye Oyasin (We Are All Related). Who isn't fascinated by Native American culture, its messages for life, and its beautiful handwork and crafts? In addition to sharing his personal story, Gary Fields and his family will treat us to a hands-on experience with Native American crafts.

Dance – A Reflection of Culture. Ed Austin, BYU Dance Professor Emeritus, and past President of NFO, lived in the islands of Samoa in 1973-74, and then returned in 2011 as part of a sabbatical leave from Brigham Young University. His ethnographic fieldwork focusing on a ritual dance, *Tausaluga*, reveals a fascinating artifact which informs our understanding of Samoan history and culture. Participants will have a glimpse into the cultural symbolism of the dancer's crown.

Kinnecting School Curriculum to Dance?! That's easy when you join *Kinnect*, a 12-member outreach dance company for schools K-6. These student performers, along with their instructor, develop a 30-minute presentation which integrates academic concepts within math, language, science, etc., with dance. They will present this year's program for us and then talk about their classroom activities. This will be a great opportunity to pick up ideas for exciting ways to use dance with children in the schools.

An Afternoon of Dancing. Several folk dance groups from the greater Salt Lake area will join us for a festival of dancing. Live music will be provided by *Zivio*, and each group will bring dances to share. There will also be time for requested dances. This is our opportunity to meet, dance, laugh, and make friends with dance groups from the surrounding community.

Festival of Nations. Festival of Nations has become a tradition within the BYU World dance program. NFO attendees will be hosted at an international potluck dinner by members of our folk dance ensembles. Following dinner, attendees will be escorted to a performance featuring the *International Folk Dance Ensemble*, *Living Legends*, *Traditionz*, and 3 additional ensembles in BYU's Folk Dance Program. After the performance, *Zivio* will play for a final dancing opportunity with conference attendees and BYU students, a grand finale to our three-day NFO experience.

[For our presenters' full bios, the final schedule and registration form see the NFO web site. www.nfo-usa.org]