



TIFD eNewsletter | May 2016 | Volume 36 No. 4

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Texas Camp 2016 is Coming! *by Erica Rikki Nicolae*

Once again returning to the beautiful facilities of the Greene Family Camp, we'll be delighted by the irrepresible Ahmet Lüleci teaching dances from Turkey, and transported to Scandinavia by the teaching of the wonderful Roo Lester with her husband Larry, with Scandinavian Fiddling by Loretta Kelly from November 24 - 27, 2016.

We'd love to have you join us for the 69th annual TIFD Texas Camp! Registration will open on August 1st, 2016, so **SAVE THE DATE**, and then be sure to check back here in August for your registration forms.

THURSDAY NIGHT: Into the Woods

"Once upon a time, in a far-off kingdom, there lay a small village, at the edge of the woods..." To join this night of revelry in the hamlet of Bruceville, transform yourself into your dearest wish, your direst fear, your deepest dream. It's fairy tale time!

TURKISH NIGHT: Magic Carpet Ride

Let the magic carpet sweep you away! Whirl from the Aegean to the Black to the Mediterranean Sea, zoom through the Grand Bazaar, soar through legend and history. You'll find a thousand and one party inspirations in that fabled land where Europe touches Asia: Turkey!

SCANDINAVIAN NIGHT: Northern Lights

Beneath the shimmering Northern Lights, how can you help but feel the pols? In your swirling skirt or embroidered shirt, get your best Scandi glow on as you head west of the moon and east of the sun, to the fjords and fiddles and feasts and fun.

Meet our world class teaching staff

Ahmet Lüleci



Ahmet Lüleci is an accomplished choreographer, dance teacher and performer as well as a researcher of Anatolian culture. Ahmet was presented with the 2002 Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts & Humanities by the Assembly of Turkish American Associations. His choreography was awarded the gold medal at the Hong Kong Open dance competition in 2004 (performed by Budlet Dance Company) as well as the first prize at the ethnic dance competition in Germany in 2005 & 2006. He is the winner of Crash Art's "Dance Straight Up! 2004 and 2006", "Ten's the limit 2005" and Boston Dance Umbrella's "Boston Moves 2001" awards for choreography. His company Collage has won the fifth place at the world dance competition in year 2003.

Since arriving in North America in 1985, he has taught many workshops and camps throughout the United States as well as Canada, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Holland, England, Switzerland, Brazil, Argentina, Germany, Norway, Italy and Australia. He has set innumerable suites of dances for the stage working with dance organizations around the world.

Prior to his departure for the US, Ahmet also served as Director of Dances for Hoytur, long considered Turkey's leading dance association. Since the age of eight he has danced with numerous school ensembles and private associations, many of which won outstanding awards in city-wide and National-International competitions. Between 1973 and 2003 he participated in International dance festivals & competitions throughout Europe and North America. His college major was music, Luleci's fascination with dance led him to conduct scholarly research into the historical, social and cultural background of the costumes and spoon dances from Turkey's Mediterranean coast. His efforts resulted in an exhaustive, 400 page study for which he was awarded First Place in the 1985 national competition in research on the folkdances of Turkey by the Turkish ministry of Youth, Sports and Education. In 1997 Ahmet completed a second degree in Fine Arts.

He is the founder/artistic director of Boston based group The Collage Dance Ensemble, which allows him to further his goal of making folk dance and music accessible to a wider audience. He is also the founder and co-director of a well-known Balkan dance camp called "World Camp" based in New York, USA. Ahmet has been serving as a jury member at the famous European Music and Dance competition "international-eisteddfod" held in Llangollen, Wales, United Kingdom.

Roo Lester



Roo Lester teaches many different kinds of Scandinavian dance but has focused especially on what she calls the turning dances of Norway and Sweden. Her teaching is infused with a great love of dancing and a desire to help others to love it too. Today she is recognized as one of the foremost exponents of Scandinavian dance in the US.

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Roo, a California native, began folk dancing as part of rainy day PE at school. A college folk dance class led to a Masters in Dance, with a focus in Dance Ethnology, from UCLA. While a student Roo began performing with the UCLA Yugoslav Performing Group, Betyarok Hungarian Group, and Westwind in Los Angeles. Later she joined Aman with whom she toured the US. While living in Colorado, Roo danced with Narodno and the Boulder Scandinavian Dancers. Roo has choreographed dance suites for the Aman Chamber Ensemble, Westwind (in LA), Zivio in Utah, Narodno and the Boulder Scandinavian Dancers in Colorado and the Fermi Lab international dancers in the SW suburbs of Chicago, IL.

Roo has been observing, learning and studying Scandinavian dance since she met the Hambo on the dance floor when she was in college. She began teaching Scandinavian dance after her first visit to the San Diego Folk Dance Conference where she met Ingvar and Jofrid Sodal. Since 1983 Roo has traveled extensively in Scandinavia studying dance and participating in dance and music events. She has been the American coordinator for several dance and music camps in Scandinavia.

Roo has published a number of lengthy descriptions of Norwegian dances including Telespringar, Hallingspringar, and Valdresspringar. In addition, she wrote a guide to Scandinavian Dance Basics, and has published several articles.

Roo's work with dance has taken many different paths: Teaching folkdance in the Los Angeles area public schools; three months in the Basque Provinces studying Basque dance; five years as one of the directors of Barátság Hungarian Music and Dance Camp; and working with Alan Alda and Mariette Hartley for an episode of Mash.

Among the venues where she has taught are Buffalo Gap, Florida Folk Dance Camp, Folklore Camp in Mendocino, Folklore Village, Kentucky Dance Institute, Maine & Mainwoods Dance Camps, Ogelbay, Old World Music and Dance Events, Pinewoods, Scandia Camp Mendocino, Scandinavian Week, Texas International Folk Dance Camp, Hardanger Fiddle Association of America and Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

Currently Roo is a director of Scandia Camp Mendocino, teaches the famous 'Scandinavian Dance Basics' class at Nordic Fiddles and Feet on the East Coast and is a consultant for Scandinavian events at Folklore Village in Dodgeville, WI. She teaches a weekly Scandinavian turning dance class in the southwestern suburbs of Chicago, Illinois and whenever possible teaches with her husband Larry Harding. Larry began folk dancing in college and taught and led the Argonne International Folk Dance group for many years. Roo and Larry's hallmarks include clear, positive teaching that incorporates background information, styling, and technique, and the ability to present the basic concepts of Scandinavian dance to dancers in a fun and lighthearted manner.

Loretta Kelley



Loretta Kelley has been performing on, teaching and writing about the Hardanger fiddle (hardingfele) for more than 25 years. She has appeared on Garrison Keillor's Prairie Home Companion and American Radio Company, and National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" and "Performance Today." She is a regular teacher at the Nordic Fiddles and Feet Scandinavian music and dance camp and at the Annual Workshops of the Hardanger Fiddle Association of America, as well as at innumerable local workshops throughout the US. She has made over 25 study trips to Norway and has placed highly in many fiddle competitions there. Her playing has been featured in an hour-long radio program on Norwegian radio. Her recording with Andrea Hoag and Charlie Pilzer, "Hambo in the Snow," was nominated for a GRAMMY award in the Best Traditional World Music Album category. Loretta is currently the president of the Hardanger Fiddle Association of America (www.hfaa.org).

The Austin Treasure Trove *by Jim Scales*

AIFD has been very fortunate to have a treasure trove of live music lately, some of it a total surprise. In the last couple of months we have enjoyed eminently danceable music from Austin bands AIO and La Strada.

The M9 ("minor 9") from the Pacific Northwest -- having a spare moment from the HONK!TX festival -- burst in during our April Fools's party. Loud and brassy. The evening also featured a performance from Csardas Hungarian Dancers of Austin -- reprising their Kalotaszegi suite.

Just two weeks later, Paul Morrisett dropped in to play fiddle and hardingfele in a couple of sets with our Don Weeda.

And the future looks bright for more live music -- from Homegrown (formerly known as Homegrown Contra Band) and Shirley Johnson. Thank you to our musically talented friends!

Calendar

June

45th Annual Texas Folklife Festival, San Antonio, TX, June 10-12.

<http://www.texancultures.com/>

July

Kentucky Dance Institute, Murray, KY, July 17-23 www.knobtiger.com

2016 Bulgarian Folk Music & Dance Seminar, Plovdiv, Bulgaria July 24-30.

<http://www.folkseminarplovdiv.net/>

November

Texas Camp, Bruceville, TX, November 23-27.

tifd.org/event/texas-camp-2016

The TIFD Newsletter is produced monthly. The deadline for story submission is the last Saturday of the previous month. Please submit your articles to editor@tifd.org.

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