

Original Legend of Timpanogos to be Performed by Utah Regional Ballet

**Ballet Inspired by Popular Native American Legend with Original Choreography
by Jacqueline Colledge, Utah Regional Ballet, a Professional Ballet Company**

January xx, 2010—Utah Regional Ballet, one of two professional ballet companies in Utah, will perform the award-winning, original ballet, Legend of Timpanogos on February 26 and 27 at the Covey Center for the Arts in Provo. The ballet originated with the Utah Regional Ballet and is choreographed by Jacqueline Colledge.

The ballet is the retelling of a Nez Perce Indian legend about a young Indian maiden who falls in love with a brave from a neighboring tribe. The principal dancers include Joni Tuttle and Rachelle Jardine as the Indian maiden, Ucanogos; Christopher Young and Brian Debes as Timpanac, Hua Zhaung as Red Feather, Julius Chavez as the Chiefain and Kaelyn Magee and Lauran Turner as Morning Sun.

“Over the years Legend has burned a special place in my heart and the hearts of the many dancers who have performed it,” said Jackie Colledge, Artistic Director, Utah Regional Ballet. “There is also a spirit surrounding this ballet that makes it appealing to audiences around the world. The dramatic love triangle seems to leave a lasting effect.”

Parts of Legend of Timpanogos have been performed in China, Austria, Germany and showcased at the International Ballet Competition in Jackson Mississippi. Colledge continued, “The ballet has become a Utah Valley tradition and is requested as often as the Nutcracker.”

Heather Colledge Gray danced the first performances as Ucanogos and is coaching the production this year. She danced with Brian Debes, as Timpanac, in one of the first performances, and Brian is featured as Timpanac in this year’s performance as well.

Julius Chavez, a native American and cultural advisor to the Ballet, will be visiting public schools along with other cast members to bring this ballet to life for students through interactive discussions and demonstrations of Native American culture. These demonstrations are made possible through an Orem City CARE Grant.

Ticket Information

Tickets are available at the Covey Center for the Arts or by calling 801-852-7007. Tickets prices range from \$16 to \$20.

Utah Regional Ballet

The Utah Regional Ballet is a professional ballet company that has performed for audiences worldwide, including China, Austria, Germany and the US. The director and choreographer is Jacqueline P. Colledge who was a principal dancer for Ballet West and has trained dancers that have gone on to perform for Ballet West, Utah Regional Ballet and other ballet companies in the US. She has written and choreographed several original ballets including the Legend of Timpanogos, Romeo and Juliet, Nutcracker and Cinderella. For more information go to www.utahregionalballet.org.

Contact Information:

Jennifer Finlinson

801-785-5575

Jennifer@finlinson.net