

(May 5)

Kasareikka of Stockholm, Sweden, was active in the 1920's as a combined theatre and folk dance group, and in 1962 the current folk dance group was founded. It has 35 active members. Apart from traditional Finnish folk dances, their repertoire includes folk dances from the other Nordic countries and from the Baltic countries. In addition, their repertoire includes song games from Finnish folk dance tradition and parlor dances as well as new variations of Finnish folk dances. The goal of this group is to preserve and spread the Finnish folk dance and music tradition. In this way they promote Finnish culture in Sweden and other countries. For more information go to <http://www.folknorth.org/detail.asp?lang=en&Nr=1032>



Katirilli, Finnish Folk Dancers of California on tour in Australia

Katirilli, Finnish Folk Dancers of California

The Katirilli Finnish Folk Dancers of California was originally created in 1984 to represent Finland at the Opening Ceremonies of the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Members include Finnish immigrants, Finnish-Americans, and others who love the Finnish culture. Since its inception, the group has toured extensively throughout California, performed in Finnfests in the United States and Australia, and in many festivals throughout Finland including Kaustinen. Major Finnish choreographers (Milla Korja and Petri Kauppinen, Antti Savilampi, Aimo Hentinen, and Hannu Nipuli) created dance suites specifically for Katirilli.

Pekka Pentikäinen, the world famous Finnish accordionist, has been invited to accompany the Katirilli to Duluth. Pekka will accompany Katirilli musicians and will provide music during performances and social hours.

Kisarit Finnish American Folk Dancers from the Twin Cities area of Minnesota was founded in 1972 to promote awareness and appreciation of the Finnish culture in America through Finnish folk dance and music. Since the first performance in March of 1973, the group has performed at numerous festivals (including some in Finland), nationality gatherings, business promotions, and other functions. The Kisarit dance group is made up of amateur dancers and musicians from many walks of life. For more information go to <http://www.kisarit.org>



Kivajat Children's Finnish-American Folk Dance Group (Photo courtesy of Finnish American Reporter)

The Kivajat Dancers, under the direction of Kay Seppala, began in the fall of 2004. Sponsored by the Finnish American Heritage Center of Finlandia University, Hancock, Michigan and the Finnish Theme Committee of the City of Hancock, the children, ages 8 to 13, are learning the basics of traditional Finnish folk dance. The Kivajat – the “Merry Makers” - perform in colorful costumes funded by a grant from Finlandia Foundation National. Music for the group is provided by Dennis Halme, accordionist for the Kisarit of St. Paul.



Krääkät



Aikamoiset

Turun Kansantanssin Ystävät ry, (a.k.a., TKY) of Turku, Finland, was established in 1970. Its goal was and is to enable children to join in the dancing groups and to raise them to value folk dance and other Finnish traditions. TKY has been so successful that today there are nearly 20 dance groups, of which more than half are children's and youth groups. The group performing at FinnFest 2008 is made up of two senior and one youth groups: Aikamoiset, Farmi, and Krääkät. For more information go to <http://www.rytky.fi/index.php?sivu=8>

TKY will be accompanied by Rytky, a group of musicians that has performed at various festivals in the Nordic countries, including the Kaustinen music festival in Finland. Their music can be heard on the CD Pränkkäys.