

Old Ways in the New World: On Tour

Following their participation in the Festival in Washington, performers from eight foreign countries are scheduled to tour to 40 cities across the United States through the Smithsonian's Touring Performance Service.

"Old Ways in the New World: On Tour" began in 1973 with the participation of 49 Tamburashi singers, dancers, and musicians from Yugoslavia. Serbo-Croatian Americans joined with the touring performers in a unique cultural exchange that involved five communities on both a personal and an artistic level.

The enthusiastic response generated by the pilot tour resulted in an extended program during the summer of 1974, when participants from seven countries traveled to eleven states. A welcome reception by the Mayor of Cleveland, informal festivals and workshops in Spokane, a formal presentation at the United Nations are some of the activities that took place on that tour. Letters of enthusiasm followed each community's participation in the program. A spokesperson from Katherine Dunham's Performing Arts Training Center in East St. Louis, Illinois said, "For our community, it was something of a miraculous and wonderful event. The interchange possible with children, adults and families was of tremendous value to East St. Louis."

Requests for participation in the 1975 "Old Ways" tour program have come from a variety of sources: Bicentennial commissions, parks and recreation departments, human resources committees, museums, and the ethnic communities themselves. Exciting activities await the arrival of the foreign folk performers. In some cities the "Old Ways" participants will be incorporated into existing festivals, as in the case of "Summerfest" in Milwaukee. Other

cities have created festivals around the "Old Ways" presentation; two city-wide festivals in Philadelphia will feature performances by the touring groups. A festival in Lincoln, Nebraska has been planned for the German performers, as well as picnics and dances in small neighboring communities. Italians will join in the festivities at an outdoor celebration held in their honor by the town of Hempstead, New York. In Wichita, Kansas, students from Ghana have joined the Bicentennial Commission in planning the Ghanaian participation in the Black Arts and Heritage Festival. St George Orthodox Church



will serve as the focal point for the community activities when the Lebanese folk performers travel to El Paso, Texas.

Since its beginning in 1973, the "Old Ways in the New World: On Tour" has involved an expanding number of foreign countries and American communities. Forty engagements in 1975 and 200 in 1976 as part of America's Bicentennial celebrations will reacquaint thousands of Americans with their cultural cousins and will give even more Americans a basis for an understanding of the ethnic heritage of their neighbors.

1975 Tour Schedule

Lebanon:

Toledo/Cleveland, July 1-4; Kalamazoo, July 8-10; Philadelphia, July 11-12; Denver, July 13-15; Los Angeles, July 16-17; El Paso, July 18-20.

Ghana:

Buffalo, July 8-10; Philadelphia, July 11-13; Oakland, July 15-17; Los Angeles, July 18-20; Hawaii, July 22-24; St. Louis, July 25-27; Peoria, July 29-31; Wichita, Aug. 1-3.

Mexico:

Indianapolis, July 8-10; Louisville, July 11-13; St. Louis, July 15-17; Philadelphia, July 18-20; Salt Lake City, July 22-24; Los Angeles, July 25-27; Albuquerque, July 29-31; El Paso, Aug. 1-3.

Japan:

Milwaukee, July 8-10; Middleburg, Vt., July 11-13; Baltimore, July 15-17; Philadelphia, July 18-20; Los Angeles, July 22-24; San Francisco, July 25-27.

Italy:

Los Angeles, July 8-10; New Orleans, July 15-17; Hempstead, July 18-20; White Plains, July 22-24; Baltimore, July 25-27.

Germany:

Lincoln, Neb., July 1-3; Hettinger, N. Dak., July 4-6; Baltimore, July 8-10; Philadelphia, July 11-13; Montgomery, Ala., July 15-17; Louisville, July 18-20.

Jamaica/Haiti:

Atlanta, July 8-10; Milwaukee, July 11-13; Staten Island, July 15-17; Philadelphia, July 18-20; St. Louis, July 22-24; Benton Harbor, Mich., July 25-27.

**Tour schedule subject to change.*

In a national outreach program the Smithsonian Institution tours participants from foreign countries to American cities following the Festival. This year 40 cities will be on the tour. Yugoslavian participants view Niagara Falls, during the 1973 tour.