2nd Canadian Hungarian Folkdance Festival

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CANADA

PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

I am very pleased to send greetings and best wishes to the Canadian-Hungarian Folklore Association on the occasion of their Second Annual Folk Dance Festival.

It is Canada's good fortune that her people have come, and will continue to come, from many countries, bringing their traditions with them. We do not wish to submerge these elements, to melt them down into a uniform mold. We wish to preserve, as much as possible, the flavour and character of the many groups which make up our country.

By its activities, the Canadian-Hungarian Folklore Association encourages this preservation of culture among its members and thus fosters the multicultural aims of all Canadians.

Pierre Elliott Trudeau

O t t a w a,
1 9 7 7.

Ontario

The Premier
of Ontario

Parliament Buildings
Queen's Park
Toronto Ontario

June, 1977

On behalf of the Government and the people of Ontario, I am delighted to extend greetings to the members of the Canadian-Hungarian Folklore Association, as you celebrate your 2nd annual Folk Dance Festival. May I also join you in warmly welcoming those from other provinces who are competing in our provincial capital this year.

The variety of rich treasures bequeathed to our great province by her many people of Hungarian heritage is a matter of pride and satisfaction to all Ontarians ... not least those of your colourful and exciting music and dancing, enjoyed by people from all over the world during Toronto's "Caravan".

May I express the hope that your 2nd annual Canadian-Hungarian Folk Dance Festival will be even more successful than the last, and will continue to entertain thousands of people for many years to come.

William G. Davis,
Premier of Ontario

MANY, MANY THANKS...

Thanks are due to the directors of the Hungarian Cultural Centre for making the Second Canadian-Hungarian Folkdance Festival possible.

* * *

Also thanks to the advertisers who made this booklet possible.

PURPOSES OF THE FESTIVAL:

1. To bring together performing groups who share an interest in Hungarian folkdancing.
2. To assist the development of folkdance groups.
3. To show Hungarian folk-culture through the universal language of dance.

*

Only those groups are eligible to participate in the Folkdance Festival who perform Hungarian folkdances on a regular basis.

*

The Festival starts 3 p.m., Saturday, June 25th, at the Hungarian Cultural Centre, 840 St. Clair Ave., West, Toronto.

*

The Folkdance Festival will be an adjunct to the regular Caravan activities.

Ontario

The Premier
of Ontario

Parliament Buildings
Queen's Park
Toronto Ontario

1977. junius hó

A második népi táncfesztivál alkalmából Ontario tartomány kormányának és lakosságának nevében nagy örömmel üdvözlöm a Kanadai Magyar Folklorisztikai Szövetség tagjait. Engedjék meg, hogy Önökkel együtt szivélyesen köszöntsem mindazokat, akik más tartományokból jöttek, hogy az idén tartományunk fővárosában versenyezzenek.

A változatos, gazdag kincsek, melyekkel sok magyar származásu ontarioi lakos gazdagitotta nagyszerü tartományunkat büszkeséggel és megelégedéssel töltenek el minden ontarioi lakost ... különösen az Önök szines és megragadó zenéje és táncai, amelyekben a torontoi " Karaván " alkalmából a világ minden tájáról érkező emberek gyönyörködnek.

Engedjék meg, hogy annak a reményemnek adjak kifejezést, hogy az Önök második évenkénti Kanadai Magyar Népi Táncfesztiválja még sikeresebb lesz mint az előző volt és hogy továbbra is szórakoztatni fogja az emberek ezreit az elkövetkezendő számos év során.

William G. Davis
Ontario tartomány miniszterelnöke

The City of Toronto
David Crombie, Mayor

G R E E T I N G S

As Mayor of the City of Toronto, I am pleased to have this opportunity to extend Civic Greetings to the Canadian-Hungarian Folklore Association's second annual Canadian-Hungarian Folk Dance Festival which will be held on Saturday, June 25th in Toronto.

Last year, the festival had eleven participating groups from three provinces and well over a thousand viewers.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the Festival and best wishes to all.

David Crombie

Mayor's Office,
City Hall,
Toronto, Ontario.

M a y o r.

On behalf of the **Canadian-Hungarian Folklore Association** I would like to welcome you all to the **Second Annual Hungarian Folkdance Festival** in Canada.

Though only two years old, the Festival is already somewhat of an institution. It owes its rapid attainment of that status mainly to the success of the 1976 Festival, the first, largest and most spectacular get-together of Hungarian folkdance enthusiasts ever assembled on the North American continent. After that event, those of us who helped bring it about, became concerned about assuring the long term future of this Festival as well as other events and movements that make a positive contribution to Hungarian folklore in Canada.

This concern was at the root of the creation of the **Canadian-Hungarian Folklore Association.** The Association has an ambitious goal. It is to promote and support all the activities that have to do with preserving, practising or bringing before the greater Canadian public any branch of Hungarian folklore.

We hope that through the Association we shall be able to attain this aim and we are confident that as a result we will be able to make a valuable contribution to the cultural life of our new country, Canada.

We trust you will find the **Folkdance Festival** enjoyable and we hope you will support the **Canadian-Hungarian Folklore Association** in bringing about similar folklore events in the future.

Warmest regards **Kálmán Dreisziger,** co-director

1st Canadian-Hungarian Folkdance Competition - Toronto

The packed audience at the Hungarian Cultural Centre witnessed a unique spectacle on June 26, 1976. Twelve Canadian and American folkdance groups got together to present the best of their dances.

The dancers of the Kapisztrán Ensemble travelled furthest. They spent two days in a rented bus to get to Troonto. There were three groups from Montréal: the Bokréta Ensemble (with 30 dancers—the most populous group at the festival), the Hunor dancers and a French-Canadian group, L'Ensemble Folklorique Mackinaw. From the U.S.A., there were two visiting groups: the Young Magyars from Syracuse, N.Y. and the girls of the Toldi Miklós scout group from Buffalo. There were also Hungarian scout groups from Canada, the 27th and 59th scout groups from Hamilton, Ont. and the dancers of the Nádasdy Ferenc scout group from Oshawa, Ont. In addition, the Szittya Dancers from St. Catherines and the Pannonia Folk Ensemble from Delhi., Ont. also took part. Of course the "hosts", the junior and senior dancers of the Toronto Kodály Ensemble must be mentioned, though the seniors were a non-competing group.

Colourful Display of Folk-Costumes

More than 200 dancers dressed into costume for the occasion. Blue-pantalooned horseherds, shepherds with their crooks, astiakhan hatted lads from Rábaköz, girls in multicoloured embroidery from Kalocsa gathered in the downstairs hall of the Centre, where under the guidance of Csaba Pál the dress rehearsal began. As group followed group, it became apparent that the Rábaközi costumes of the Winnipeg group were the most authentic. However the girls' embroidered Kalocsai dresses of the Syracuse and St. Catharines groups also pleased the viewers as did the Hortobágyi herdsmen's costumes of the Bokréta Ensemble.

Surprisingly High Standard of Competition

The festival began with men's dances. The Bokréta Ensemble's lads' dance from Hortobágy was the most successful number, though both the Alföldi Legényes (Oshawa Scouts) and the Syracuse dancers' traditional interpretation of the famous Verbunk from Kapuvár met with good response from the audience.

The men's dances were followed by girls' dances. And here is where it became apparent how strong the competition was about to get. The girls from Buffalo began with a dance entitled Tiszántúli Leánytánc. They were followed by the Syracuse girls performing Andor Czompó's choreography: Dunafalvi Leánytánc. Just as the audience began to think there couldn't be anything better, ten lovely girls from the Winnipeg Kapisztrán Ensemble stepped on stage and captivated the audience with a spectacular Pillow Dance. No group was able to out-perform them, though the traditional rivalry between the Bottle dances of the Montreal Hunor and Bokréta groups provided further interesting viewing. The now traditional Dance of the Three Jumps performed to their own vocal accompaniment by the Buffalo girls brought the girls dances to a close.

Fifteen Couples' Dances

The couples' dance competition brought new groups in front of the packed audience. The Tápéi dance of the Hamilton scouts was followed by a Tápéi performed by the Kodály juniors. From the enthusiastic audience reaction it became apparent that the Kodály Juniors, who had been performing on that stage all the previous week during Caravan, had become the favourites of the home-town audience. But the junior dancers of the Bokréta ensemble, performing a Magyar Csárdás also won much applause. Three groups came to take part in the competition with the Mikepércsi Csárdás. And here is where the dancers of the Bokréta Ensemble showed that they have the best, most original version of that dance.

The seventh number was the Winnipeg group's difficult, demanding Transylvanian Forgatós. The Kodály Juniors followed with another, simpler, though no less enjoyable Transylvanian number, the Makfalvi Táncok.

Illustration by Prof. Koroknay

The Syracuse group performed their final number: Kalocsai páros. They were followed by the Oshawa scouts performing Bátai Üveges to the accompaniment of the Verseghy-Valler-Egerszegi trio.

Next, the Hunor dancers from Montreal performed a number called Zalai Páros. The twelfth dance was the St Catherines Szittya dancers' Magyar Verbunk és Csárdás performed by eight couples. They were followed by the Hamilton scouts with a dance suite from Rábaköz.

As the Winnipeg Kapisztrán Dancers came on stage to perform the second-last number, they got a big hand from the audience. By this time the voluminous Árpád Hall was crowded with spectators eager to see what this surprisingly strong Winnipeg group would produce. They were not disappointed. The Rábaközi Pántlikázó that the Kapisztrán dancers performed was the best number yet on stage. (In fact it eventually won the best single number award.)

The last group to perform aroused great curiosity, for the Mackinaw Ensemble was a group made up entirely from French-Canadians from the Montréal area. Many in one audience wondered whether they would really perform a Hungarian dance. And if so, could they give it the right style; the proper Magyar spirit.

The first surprise was a pleasant one. The lads were handsome, the girls pleasant, good-looking. After the lads opened with a well-performed, enjoyable swineherd's dance the girls followed with a bottle dance. Then they all broke into a spirited couples' dance. Meanwhile, one more surprise, they sang clearly and loudly in Hungarian. Suddenly the tempo of the dance slowed, became more majestic as a candle-lit wedding scene unfolded. Then once more the mood changed to the fast-paced finalé, the dynamic Szatmári Fergeteges. Well, before the end of the number, the audience stood up to give the French-Canadian visitors a well-earned, thunderous ovation.

The nine-member jury was composed of experts and amateurs of Hungarian folkdance and folklore. President: Kálmán Magyar, New York. Members: Gertrud Edenhoffer, Winnipeg, Aurél Hamrán, Péter Inokai, Csaba Koller, Prof. Imre Koroknay, Zsuzsa Óradnai, Gyula Prommer, György Zadubán, Toronto. After close to an hour of stormy debate the jury brought down the following awards:

First Prize — Shared —
Ensemble Folklorique Mackinaw (Montréal) and Kapisztrán Ensemble (Winnipeg)

Second Prize —
Kodály Ensemble Junior Dancers (Toronto)

Third Prize —
Dancers of the Toldi Miklós Scout Group (Buffalo N.Y.)

Fourth Prize —
Szittya Dancers (St Catherines)

Special Prizes:

Best Single Number: Kapisztrán Ensemble
Most Appealing Costumes: Szittya Dancers
Most Promising Group: Bokréta Ensemble (Montréal).

The prizes were made possible by the gracious donations of the following:

First Prize and the Toronto Cup Trophy For the best group) — $100 — The DOBOS and TANG INSURANCE LTD.
Second Prize (Second Group) — $75 — The BUDAPEST MEAT MARKET (Varga P. Gyula.)
Third Prize (Third Group) —$50 Travel Voucher — The COLUMBUS TRAVEL SERVICE LTD.)
Fourth Prize (Foourth Group) —$50— The CANADIAN HUNGARIAN CULTURAL CENTRE
Best Dance Number —$50 Travel Voucher — The COLUMBUS TRAVEL SERVICE LTD.
The Most Original Costumes —$50— THE CANADIAN-HUNGARIAN CULTURAL CENTRE
The Most Promising Group — Two Pair of Dance Boots — ISTVÁN BURÁNYI.

The prizes were publicly awarded by Zsuzsa Óradnai, the treasurer of the Festival. Afterwards the two winning groups were joined by the Senior Kodály dancers in presenting a gala programme.

With this, the Festival ended.

The organizers would like to extend their tanks to all those who made this unique experience possible: to the members of the Hungarian Cultural Centre, to the enthusiastic audience and, of course to all the participating dancers.

See you again, next year.

Canadian-Hungarian Folklore Association

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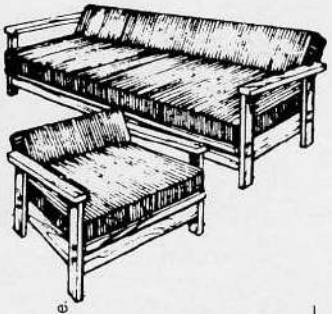

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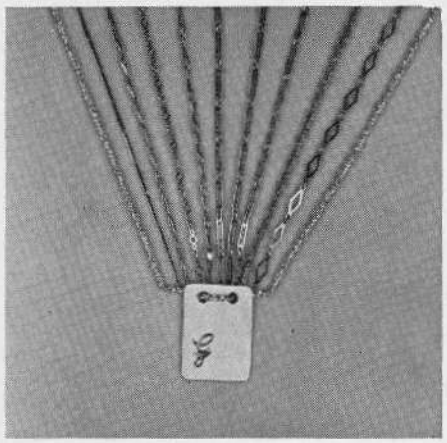

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"Dear Friends,

The First Canadian-Hungarian Folkdance Competition — Pontozó '76 of Toronto is over. I'm sure you'll all agree that it was a remarkable event. For one thing, it brought together the largest number of Hungarian folk dance groups ever to assemble in North America. It saw the staging of the greatest variety of Hungarian folk dances. And it was certainly the longest competition ever held in America.

But there were a number of other records: Pontozó Day, June 26 set an attendance record for the Hungarian Cultural Centre's Budapest Pavilion; it was also the first folk dance event to be filmed on location for Toronto's Hungarian television broadcast.

However, the most remarkable part of the competition had to do with the level of competition. The Evaluating Committee, unanimous in little else, found complete agreement that the level of the participating groups was way above their expectation. Take just one example: the only group with Pontozó '75 experience, the Young Magyars of Syracuse, did not finish among the top five. Even though their performance has improved so much, that I feel confident in saying that with this same programme they would have come to a close second in Pontozó '75.

I'd like to thank all the groups for participating in Pontozó '76 in Toronto. Together we created an event that will be a long-remembered, heartwarming memory for the audience and dancers alike. Hoping to see you again at future Pontozos in Toronto.

I remain

Yours Truly
Kálmán Dreiszíger

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A PONTOZÓ '76 DÖNTŐJE

Szeptember 18-án a passaici (N.J., USA) Magyar Református Templom Kálvin termében került sor az északamerikai Magyar Népitáncverseny, a PONTOZO '76 döntőjére, kilenc tánccsoport részvételével.

A Pontozó Népitánc-verseny a mezőségi **Pontozó legényesről** kapta a nevét. Első ízben, 1975-ben, a mostanihoz hasonlóan Magyar Kálmán rendezte. Ezen még nem szerepelt kanadai résztvevő.

A döntőbe jutott együttesek három korábbi területi verseny — a passaici, a clevelandi és a torontói (a Kultúrközpontban tartott) — legjobbjainak vetélkedőjéből kerültek ki.

A résztvevők:

1. A buffalói Toldi Miklós cserkészek (Tarnóy Gyula és Éva vezetésével)
2. A norwalki (USA) Magyar Ifjúsági Tánccsoport (Molnár Mária, Bata Mihály vezetésével).
3. A new yorki Regős Cserkészcsoport (Mersich Imre, Korék Ilona vezetésével).
4. A torontói Kodály "ifi" Táncosok (Lázár Zsuzsa, Mátyás Béla és Dreisziger Kálmán vezetésével).
5. A St. Catherines-i (Kanada) "Szittya" Táncosok (Tarnóy Gyula vezetésével).
6. A detroiti Hungária Tánccsoport (Enyedi Linda, Misangyi Violet vezetésével).
7. A new brunswicki (USA) Regős Cserkészcsoport (Teszár Tamás vezetésével).
8. A Mackinaw Folk Dance Group (Montreal, Kanada, Patricia Rousseau vezetésével).
9. A rochesteri International Folk Dancers (Michel Denber, Debbie Smith vezetésével).

A ballada kategóriában szerepelt:

1. A Clevelandi Szinház Néptánc Együttese (Soltay István vezetésével).
2. A new brunswicki (USA) Regős Cserkész csoport (Teszár Tamás vezetésével).

Versenyen kívül, a hivatalos műsor után fellépett még:

A Clevelandi Magyar Szinház Néptánc Együttese (Soltay István vezetésével).

A torontói Kodály Népitánc Együttes (Dreisziger Kálmán vezetésével).

A new brunswicki (USA) Bartók Gyermekkórus (Rev. Bertalan Imre, Teszár Tamás vezetésével).

és a new yorki Hungária Népitánc Együttes (Dr. Somogyi Balázs és Magyar Kálmán vezetésével).

181 táncos mutatta be itt tudását, a magyar népitánc iránti szeretetét. 181 fiatal perdült a színpadon, énekelt tele torokból, csillogó szemekkel, kipirult arccal. Lendületük magával ragadta a nézőket is, akik nem egyszer helyükről felállva, vastapssal jutalmazták a szereplőket.

Óriási taps köszöntötte a francia-kanadai fiatalokból álló Mackinaw együttes fergeteges táncát, mely a Magyar Képeskönyv befejező része volt.

Figyelemre méltó és egyúttal elgondolkoztató, hogy a montreáli együttes a torontói elődöntőn az első helyet szerezte meg, a winnippegi Kapisztrán együttessel együtt. (Ez utóbbi anyagi nehézségekre hivatkozva lemondta az amerikai döntőn való részvételt.) A másik, nem magyarokból álló csoport, a rochesteri International Folk Dancers tavaly az első helyen végzett a Pontozó döntőjében, most pedig csak a negyedik helyet tudta megszerezni. Ez is bizonyítja, hogy e hihetetlenül

A Pontozó '76 legelkesebb csoportja: Kodály „ifi"

rövid idő — egy év — alatt a verseny színvonala óriásit emelkedett. Örvendetes volt a bemutatott táncok széles skálája: Magyarország minden vidékéről láthattunk táncokat, s a táncok nagy része hű maradt az eredetihez.

A zsűri döntése alapján a Pontozó '76 Kupa és az első hely nyertese:

1. A new brunswicki Regős Cserkészcsoport (USA)
2. A Mackinaw Folk Dance Group (Montreal, Kanada)
3. A torontói Kodály „ifi" Táncosok

A zsűritől különdíjat kapott:

Férfi tánc: Hungária Tánccsoport (Detroit, USA) a széki Ritka Legényesükért

Leánytánc: Toldi Miklós cserkészek (Buffalo, USA) a Tiszántúli Leánytáncukért

Páros tánc: International Folk Dancers (Rochester, USA) a Tubarózsa Csárdásukért

Népviselet: Magyar Ifjúsági Tánccsoport (Norwalk, USA) az Ecseri Lakodalmas viseletükért

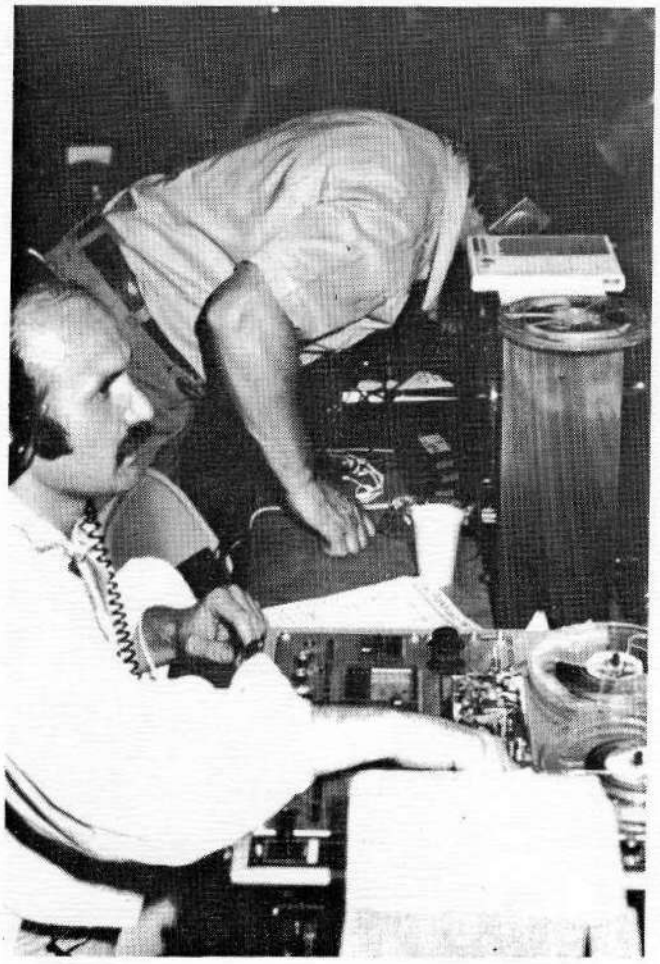
A legtöbbet ígérő csoport: Kodály „ifi" Táncosok (Toronto, Kanada)

Tokay János faragóművész különdíját, a szép Lehelkürt utánzatot a legeredetibb viselet és táncért a new brunswicki (USA) cserkészek kapták (a művész odaítélése alapján)

Tiszteletdíjat kapott a new yorki Regős Tánccsoport

A ballada versenyt a clevelandi Magyar Színház Együttese nyerte a „Góbé és az ördög" előadásáért.

A Pontozó '76 nyertesei: a new brunswicki táncosok



Magyar Kálmán a Pontozó „atyja" — munka közben

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PONTOZÓ '76 ended successfully and it is history now. We must take a look back to evaluate the competition's accomplishments and to measure the extent to which it helped or perhaps detrimented the Hungarian folk dance scene in North America.

This competition was to this date, the largest folk dance event held outside Hungary. It attempted to unite all interested individuals and groups of the Continental United States and Canada in en exciting experience of Hungarian folklore. Nevertheless, some participants went home dissatisfied. It is certainly not the intention of Pontozo competition to effect negative feelings and there are areas where organization can improve.

The purpose of this article is to document some important statistics, awards, the negative and positive accomplishments, as well as present some future plans.

Hopefully, it will bring about the replies of many interested and concerned individuals to discuss their views. It is essential that we all come forth and voice our opinion in order to establish a better communication and to improve Pontozo Festival.

Kalman Magyar

PALOTÁS (Winnipeg)

There is a time, and it comes sooner or later for every immigrant when he is ready to justify his cultural existence in this new land. He no longer reserves his love and devotion only to old rituals and old customs, and realizes that "habits" should not be glorified as "traditions".

So it is with song and dance. Inspired by the dynamic vivacity and vigor, which pulsate though centuries of Hungarian musical development and impressed by the contributions made by the many other races who have settled in Hungary, the Palotás Emsemble was formed in 1958 to interpret this rich diversity in a Canadian context and spirit.

The Ensemble strives to represent the best of the Magyar tradition, its multi-racial and truly multi-cultural character in both the folk and classical styles, and is strongly influenced by the western Canadian qualities of clarity and rapport which are both instant and lasting.

The choreography is distinguished for its breadth of line, the efficiency of movement, and explosive spins, twirls and lifts. Costuming is uncluttered and simple in order to facilitate the mobility of the dance and the many challenges of staging and lighting . The rhythms of the music, are unmistakably Hungarian whether they be Brahms, Kodaly, Monti, Liszt, or an unattributed village tune.

In all of their work the Palotás choreographers and dancers seek authenticity of soul and spirit because this is what audiences understand—the rest belongs in museums.

The group has performed in every major concert hall across Canada and in the northern United States and has appeared frequently on network television. Command performances have been given before Her Majesty and for Her Royal Highness, Princess Margaret, and other members of the Royal Family, as well as special performances for the Governor General and leading visiting public figures. They have all found music of a Hungarian flavour and dances of a csárdás character to be their favoured form of enjoyment.

HUNGARICA

(Kitchener-Guelph-Cambridge)

Under the patronage of the Kossuth Hall

Fiatal csoport, 1976-ban alakult, két részből áll. Az idén először vesznek részt a Fesztiválon. Vezetőjük: Helen Dranzitk

27 & 59 Cs. Cs. (Hamilton)

Megint csak ismerős arcok. 1974-ben alakultak Seregélyes Márton és Kovács János segítségével. A csoport létszáma az elmúlt év végén 34 volt!

A "TOLDI MIKLÓS" Cserkészek

(Buffalo)

Már találkoztunk velük, a tavalyi, első Kanadai Magyar Népitánc Versenyen. 1975-ben alakultak, a Magyar Kálmán és Judit altal rendezett „Tánc-tábor" hatására. A csoport tagjai Amerikában és Kanadában született, 15 és 18 év közötti magyar fiatalok. Felelős vezetőjük: Tarnóy Éva.

A "SZITTYA TÁNCOSOK"

(St. Catherines)

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rövid idő — egy év — alatt a verseny színvonala óriásit emelkedett. Örvendetes volt a bemutatott táncok széles skálája: Magyarország minden vidékéről láthattunk táncokat, s a táncok nagy része hű maradt az eredetihez.

A zsűri döntése alapján a Pontozó '76 Kupa és az első hely nyertese:

1. A new brunswicki Regős Cserkészcsoport (USA)
2. A Mackinaw Folk Dance Group (Montreal, Kanada)
3. A torontói Kodály „ifi" Táncosok

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2nd Canadian-Hungarian Folkdance Festival

(UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE CANADIAN HUNGARIAN FOLKLORE ASSOCIATION)

PROGRAM

1. Palotás (Winnipeg)	Hungarian Dance No.5
2. Toldi Miklós Cs. Cs. (Buffalo)	Tiszavidéki Leánytánc
3. Hungarica (Kitchener-Guelph-Cambridge)	Csallóközi Táncok

INTERMISSION

4. Toldi Miklós Cs. Cs. (Buffalo)	Huszárverbunk
5. Palotás (Winnipeg)	Recruiting Dance
6. Kodály Oldsters (Toronto)	Pásztortánc

INTERMISSION

7. Hungarica (Kitchener-Guelph-Cambridge)	Operett Csárdás
8. Szittya Táncosok (St. Catherines)	Nyírségi Táncok
9. Palotás (Winnipeg)	Courting Dance
10. Kodály Ifi (Toronto)	Makfalvi Táncok

INTERMISSION

11. Hungarica (Kitchener-Guelph-Cambridge)	Moholi Lakodalmas
12. Toldi Miklós Cs. Cs. (Buffalo)	Háromugrós
13. 27 & 59 Cs. Cs. (Hamilton)	Makfalvi Táncok

INTERMISSION

14. Szittya Táncosok (St. Catherines)	Verbunk és Csárdás
15. Palotás (Winnipeg)	Monti Csárdás
16. Kodály Oldsters (Toronto)	Első Szerelem

A zsűri megbeszélése után a három legkedvencebb szám ismét előadásra kerül.
(8 óra tájban)

A ZSŰRI:

Prof. Czompó Andor, elnök

Pédery-Hunt Dóra — Prof. Koroknay Imre

Magyar Judit — Zadubán György