

Biography

FiddleKicks brings Appalachian clogging to life with a 'whoop and a holler'! Performed to the rhythms and driving beat of old-time music, this uniquely American dance form celebrates the convergence of Celtic, African and Cherokee cultures in southern Appalachia. Additionally, FiddleKicks performs a variety of other traditional percussive dance forms, creating as lively and entertaining multi-cultural experience. Costumes range from “down-home” pioneer outfits to more modern styles.



Prominent in performance, education and preservation of this dance form, FiddleKicks performs the old-fashioned way — Fiddlekicks performs the old-fashioned way— to live music. Performances include instrumentals and songs by our accomplished musicians; hamboning — an African American body percussion tradition; and historical-cultural narration. The company tours with 4 to 8 dancers plus musicians, tailoring each show to the venue and audience.

Residency activities include demonstrations, audience participation, school assemblies, clogging toys workshops and master classes. No matter the audience — seniors, children, families, adults or a mixed crowd — people love this toe-tapping, high-energy dancing and music.

Peggy Leiby Artistic Director and founding member, Peggy Leiby, assumed a leadership role in Fiddlekicks in 1998, two years after the company’s inception. Under her leadership, FiddleKicks transitioned to a high level performing company. She has extensive experience in the Philadelphia folk dance and music community as an event organizer, performer, choreographer and teacher, and brings skills from her past experience as co-owner of a publishing company to her passion and drive for traditional dance and music. She has studied percussive styles with the Monique Legare International Dance Company and regularly attends camps and heritage centers in the traditional scene across the United States, such as those offered by The Country Song and Dance Society in Massachusetts, Berea College in Kentucky, the Swannanoa Gathering at Warren Wilson College in North Carolina and Southern Week at Ashokan Camp near Woodstock, NY.



Our dancers have grown up in the folk and traditional communities and many are also accomplished musicians who play for dances, camps and weekend events on a regular basis in the Philadelphia area and beyond. Several members of the artist roster are of particular note and with them we create a multi-faceted show with lots of variety.

