

LILIOM FOLK ENSEMBLE

Italian Folk Dance has been an integral part of Italian culture for centuries. Dance has been a continuous thread in Italian life from Dante through the Renaissance, the advent of the Tarantella, and the modern revivals of folk music and dance.

The Liliom Folk Ensemble was founded in 2003. It's mandate is to preserve and perform Hungarian folk dances and music. The Liliom Folk Ensemble also performs traditional Italian folkdances as instructor, Georgina Galba Tamas enjoys both Italian and Hungarian heritage through her mother and father, respectively. Georgina has been passionate about folk culture from her early childhood. The ensemble has performed in Windsor, Dutton, Michigan, Ohio, and Toronto, dancing as well as playing a traditional instrument called the zither at various charitable events and multicultural festivals.

One of the earliest known depictions of Italian folk dance is part of a set of frescoes at the Palazzo Pubblico in Siena by Ambrogio Lorenzetti (about 1285-1348). Part of his Allegory of Good Government (Effetto del Buon Governo) painted about 1338-40 shows a group of nine dancers, all women and accompanied by another woman singing and playing on the tambourine, executing a "bridge" figure where dancers go under the joined hands of the two lead dancers. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_folk_dance#History

