

State International Festival of North Carolina: Folkmoot, USA

In 2003, the General Assembly designated Folkmoot USA as the official State International Festival. Folkmoot, USA is an annual two-week international festival founded in Waynesville, North Carolina, to promote the cultural exchange of traditional dance and music. Its name comes from an old English word meaning "meeting of the people." Their goal is to "celebrate diversity and differences, encourage cultural conversation and inclusion, and preserve and honor worldwide cultural heritages, especially using dance as a tool to achieve world peace."

The first festival was held in 1984 and featured performers from England, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Turkey, Mexico, Puerto Rico and India. Since then, over 8,000 performers from 200 different countries have performed at Folkmoot. On average, Folkmoot, USA draws over 70,000 visitors from 40 different states. It is one of only two American festivals of its kind and is internationally acknowledged and respected.



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