

LYIFD Organizer's Biography

LYIFD organizer, Sam Wu-Shan Chiang is an international folk dancer and choreographer from Taiwan. His first experience with international folk dancing was through the senior high school international folk dance (IFD) society in September 1971.

After studying at university in Taichung, he joined the university's IFD Society in 1975 and later became the president in September 1977. Prior to becoming president, he was recommended by the university to participate in the National Folk Dance Teachers Training Camp in 1976, where he obtained his IFD teaching qualifications.

In addition to teaching at his university's IFD Society in 1976, he initiated three IFD classes in communities between 1976 and 1978. He was also recruited to teach IFD at the Taichung Municipal Cultural Center Folk Dance Class in 1978 and was selected as the Counselor of the National Folk Dance Teachers Training Camp the same year.

Sam immigrated to BC, Canada in 1997 and founded Langley & Yuanyuan International Folk Dancers (LYIFD) in late September 1998 to continue his passion for international folk dancing.

Due to a job assignment, he worked in the Silicon Valley area of California in 2003 and joined the Silicon Valley Folk Dance Club (SVFDC) that year. He was elected as the Head of Teachers Group, SVFDC in 2004. Meanwhile, from 2004 to 2005, he also launched four folk dance classes across the Bay Area of Northern California and co-founded one folk dance club in West Valley College.

Sam moved to Singapore by company request in end of 2005 and was stationed there for over 11 years. During this time, he had plenty of opportunities to explore and learn Southeast Asian cultures and dances. He was a guest teacher at two community folk dance clubs while working there and was invited back to Silicon Valley to host three IFD workshops in April 2006, January 2009, and February 2018.

Sam became a full-time IFD teacher and organizer of LYIFD after retiring in early 2017. He was invited to teach IFD at the Surrey International Folk Dancing Society (SIFD) Alex-House IFD Retreat in 2019 and 2022, as well as a workshop in November 2022. Recently, the Burnaby International Folk Dancers (BIFD) invited him to host two workshops in January 2023.

Throughout Sam's IFD experiences, he had been invited several times as an adjudicator for the inter-university IFD tournaments organized by the Taichung Region University Alliance from 1977 to 1980. Recently, in 2023, he was invited to adjudicate the International Dance section of the "Surrey Festival of Dance. He had also attended many workshops hosted by renowned IFD teachers where he gained a wealth of knowledge in folk dances from Taiwan, Taiwan's aboriginal cultures, China, Japan, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Israel, and Armenia.

Sam has also choreographed four dances: Jie Jiu Ge (Quit Drinking Song) in 1982, Man Shan Chun Se (Spring Colors on Mountains) in 2019, Naluwan Palafang (Amis Aboriginals Welcome Dance) in 2020, and A Door of The Life (Line Dance) in 2021.