

Dolina Polish Folk
Dancers/Chabry Teen Polish
Folk Dancers
Friday July 16 (Banquet Entertainment)



The Dolina Polish Folk Dancers: For almost 60 years, the Dolina Polish Folk Dancers have been entertaining audiences around the United States and Poland. It is with great pride and determination that Dolina has survived and grown to promote Polish culture through its rich history of song and dance. The group was formally known as the "Twin Cities Polish Folk Dance Circle" sponsored by the Polish National Alliance, Council 12. The group was started by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kurkowski and Mr. Stanley Baudur. In the later years Mrs. Lillian Kurkowski was instrumental in keeping the group active through the International Institute of Minnesota. Dolina has had many instructors over the years - Myrtle Hoppe, Leila Rae Jambor-Krenik, Val Jambor-McGill, Patricia Moore, Michael Jaruch and Edziu Rajtar, our current instructor.

We have invited professional choreographers from Poland and the United States to teach several of the different suites. We are fortunate to be associated with Wieslawa Hazuka from Tarnow, Poland who has worked with the group since 1983. We grew from one set of costumes and phonograph records to fourteen complete sets of costumes, our own orchestra and choir. Our present artistic director, Mr. Edziu Rajtar, became involved with Polish dance in 1976.

Presently Dolina has 30 members plus our own orchestra directed by Mr. Albert Kugler and choir, directed by Kasia Gawlik-Luiken. We have been fortunate to perform all over the upper Midwest, Canada, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Disney World in Orlando, Florida and various places throughout Poland. Dolina members have also participated in eight World Polish Folk Dance Festivals in Rzeszow, Poland, the most recent in July 2005.

Chabry Teen Polish Folk Dancers: was started in 2000. The group was founded as a place for teens, between the ages of 12-16, who are too old to be in the children's group and not quite old enough to be in the adult group. It allows teens to continue or start practicing and performing Polish dance and it acts as a stepping-stone into the adult group Dolina.

Chabry has performed at many events since its conception in 2002. Chabry has performed at the Festival of Nations since 2003. This has been great experience and exposure for participants because they perform at a large and highly attended venue.

Chabry has also recently begun performing in conjunction with Dolina. This past summer they have performed in numerous venues, including Polish Fest in Milwaukee, WI, Cesky Den Festival in Hillsboro, WI, and at the Holy Cross Church, Kolbe Hall for Polish school. This group is a great chance for teens that have experience or non, to have fun, travel, and learn many basic folk dance moves.