

Embody the Rhythm

Opening Statement:

Team Member #1: Good evening ladies and gentlemen. My name is [full name]. On behalf of my fellow team members and the Vira Heinz Program, I would like to welcome all of you to *Embody the Rhythm: A Night of Cultural Enlightenment through Dance*.

This past summer, my team members and I were presented with a unique opportunity through the Vira I. Heinz Program for Women in Global Leadership. Fifteen universities and colleges in Pennsylvania and West Virginia participate in the VIH Program. Three young women from each institution are admitted into the two-year program and receive a scholarship of at least \$5,000 to put toward the cost of an international experience of their choosing. For the first time in our lives, we traveled outside of the United States and studied abroad in a country of our choice thanks to this scholarship program. While abroad, we were able to pursue our individual passions and experience a new culture. I traveled to Spain, where [says something about Spain that was particularly inspiring.]

At this time I would like to invite the other members of my team to please come forward and introduce themselves.

We say our name, school, country, what she studied. After everyone speaks, Team Member #1 continues and we exit the stage to our positions.

Thank you, ladies.

After our time abroad, we returned to Pittsburgh excited to share our stories and adventures. Early in the fall semester, we came together as a group and began to dream of projects through which we could share our international experiences with the Pittsburgh community. However, this proved to be quite difficult. How could we synthesize such contrasting experiences as traditional music in Ireland and marine ecology in Bonaire? What was the one thing we all held in common, as part of our experience abroad? What was the one thing we all took back home?

Passion. In all of our journeys, we experienced passion- for a culture, for a country, for people. Tonight, we hope to share this passion with you through a performance of dance from around the world. You'll notice that each dance is unique in itself. While some are more modern styles of dance, others are purely traditional. Out of respect for the dancers, I would ask you to please turn off your cell phones at this time. *[Wait a moment to give people the chance to do so.]*

Maya Angelou once said, "Everything in the universe has rhythm. Everything dances."

Ladies and Gentleman, welcome to *Embody the Rhythm*. Enjoy the show!

Team Member #1 exits the stage while Team Member #2 approaches the podium. Team Member #2 begins the first introduction for Tanah.

Tanah enters through the ball room door and the show begins.

Throughout the show, there will be different stages of “waiting” for the dancers. For the sake of simplicity, we’ll use the same terms as the field events in track. The three stages will be:

- 1.) **Up**- the dance group is performing on stage.*
- 2.) **On deck**- the dance group that is next up to perform. This group will be waiting right outside the doors to the ballroom.*
- 3.) **In the hole**- the dance group that is two numbers away from performing (so they will be right after the group that is “on deck.” This group needs to be ready to go, out of the dressing room, and in the hallway.*

All other dancers that are waiting to perform will be in the dressing room.

When Tanah finishes, they will bow quickly on stage. Then, they will run off stage and exit the ballroom, keeping to the left side of the ballroom doors (or, keeping to their right side, like driving on a two way street.) As they exit, Yanlai’s “Happy Yi Girls” will enter through the right side of the ballroom doors. All dancers will exit and enter in single file. This will add about 60 seconds between numbers.

Numbers with more than one dance will remain one stage between their dances (Grecian and Thai.)

As the Thai group is performing, all other dancers will line up in their groups in the hall way outside the ballroom doors. The Thai group will bow and back up as another group enters, bows, and backs up to allow room on stage for all the subsequent groups. Once everyone is on stage, there will be a final bow and the closing remarks will begin.

Closing Remarks:

Team Member #1: Thank you for joining us this evening for a night of cultural enlightenment through dance! All of these dancers are volunteers from around the Pittsburgh community who have donated their time and their talents in order to perform for you this evening. Please help me in thanking them once more!

Applause, led by Team Member #1. Meanwhile, the rest of us are walking towards the podium to join her.

Team Member #2: Before we close this evening, we would like to extend a special thank you to our Campus Coordinator and the Vira Heinz Program, for their inspiration and support throughout all of our journeys.

Bring Campus Coordinator forward and ask her to bow/be acknowledged.

Team Member #1: Thank you all for attending *Embody the Rhythm*. My team and I applaud each and every one of you for taking time out of your busy schedules to enjoy an evening of global awareness. Ultimately, our goal tonight is for you to walk away with some global perspective. It isn't necessary for people to study abroad like we did in order to understand that people from around the world are beautifully different and unique. Having global perspective can be as simple as supporting equal treatment, having respect for all, and demonstrating awareness for the needs of others. Take this into consideration and remember: Global perspective is for everyone, but it begins with the individual.

With that said, thank you and have a great evening!

Background music is turned back on and people begin to mingle. We will initiate mingling, with the audience and with the dancers.

Order of dances:

	Dance Group	Length (Minutes)
1	Indian	8
2	Chinese	5
3	Syrian	10
4	Filipino	5
5	Grecian (3 pieces)	10
6	Ukrainian	5
7	Grecian (3 pieces)	10
8	Ukrainian	2.5-3
9	Chinese	3.5
10	Filipino	5
11	Latin American	2.5
12	American Contemporary	3
13	Chinese	5
14	American Contemporary	4
15	Thai (3 pieces)	11

Notes on Performance Roles:

Main Speaker: Team Member #1 and Team Member #2 will remain in the area of the podium/ front of the audience for the duration of the performance. There will be reserved seats in the audience for the two of them. This is important to set an example for the rest of the audience- demonstrating focused attention on the performance and enthusiasm for each of the dance groups. After Team Member #1 completes the introduction, Team Member #2 will assume the role of introducing each dance with a 30 second description.

Music: One person must oversee the music for all of the performances (Team Member #6). A copy of the script and group order will be provided. The CDs must be organized before the performances to avoid confusion.

Backstage: Two girls will need to be stationed at the doors of the ballroom to open and close them as the dancers run on and off. It will also be their responsibility to make sure that the correct dancers are “on deck.” (Team Member #3 and Team Member #4) One other will be bouncing between the different waiting stations and the dressing room, making sure the correct dancers are in the hole and on deck. This person will also keep updating a whiteboard in the dressing room that says what dances are up, on deck, and in the hole. This person will also be on call to help the dancers with anything they may need, in case of an emergency. (Team Member #5)