

Boulder Dance Coalition

Production of the History of Village Arts Coalition International Festival

\$250 Grant from the Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund - May 2015

In 2015, Melba Shepard took it upon herself to prepare a photo-rich history of the international folk festival held annually in Boulder. She asked for support from the Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund to cover some of the expenses for producing the publication.



The Festival's first producers, Maggie Butler and Alex "Tink" Wilson, post the welcome banner.

The festival began in 1981 as the Boulder FolkFest, sponsored by folk dancers Maggie Butler and Tink (Alex) Wilson; went on to become a component of the Boulder Creek Festival sponsored by the Village Arts Coalition in the 1990s; and, in 1998, became the stand-alone, two-day festival on the Boulder Mall that continues to delight hundreds of participants and passers-by every year.



Joe Miller leads a group demonstrating Ukrainian dance.

On May 17, 2015, Melba's report was completed and a printed copy was presented to Boulder Dance Coalition at its Annual Meeting on May 17, 2015. Melba and announced that printed copies were also being presented to three volunteers who had contributed exceptional service to the production of the festival during the years covered by the history. They are Anne Vickery, Willard Crary and Stan Wilkes.



Elizabeth Van Noy's Celtic Steps School of Irish Dance has performed in the festival many times.

Subsequently, a printed copy was sent to Alex Wilson's brother, John Wilson, personal representative for the legacy fund. Digital copies were sent to the Boulder Carnegie Library for history and to the *Boulder Daily Camera* and *Boulder Weekly*.

The publication was "dedicated to the memory of Alex (Tink) Wilson, who was one of the founders and who continued active involvement throughout the remainder of his life."

Read the full, 20-page, colorful history of the festival [here](http://Boulderfolkdancers.org/alex).



Traditional dance costumes have always been an exciting part of the festival's presentations, including the popular Danza Azteca.