

Gary Fields—

Gary Fields has had a life-long love affair with Native American culture. Beginning at an early age, he and his brother spent hours playing Cowboys and Indians with their friends; they always insisted on being the Indians. Gary continued to cultivate this interest in college, as he learned from Native American students and attended cultural events with them.

He spent two years living with the First Nations people of Alberta and Saskatchewan and learned from the elders about the history, music, dance, and stories of the Native American world. Upon returning to Brigham Young University, he participated in the Intertribal Choir, learned how to make and play the traditional Indian flute, and sang with a drum group, traveling to pow-wows and other cultural events in the Western United States. These events paved his path to the performing, teaching, and directing of Native American Arts.

After leaving college, he founded Morning Star, a Native American cultural arts group. His wife, Angela (Hopi/Chemehuevi), and he co-direct the ensemble, presenting Native American culture throughout the United States and in northern Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East. Locally, they provide educational demonstrations for children through the schools and in scouting programs. Demonstrations include instruction in traditional Native games, bead work, hides and furs, tipi set up, the making of cornhusk dolls, and Native music and dance. They have participated in many international festivals throughout the world and have been part of Utah's Springville World Folkfest every year since it began 32 years ago.