

NORDIC-AMERICAN PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

AUGUST 2000



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NOTES FROM MUSIC-ON-A STRING By Beatrice Hole

Itinerary for the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet 2000

Friday, September 15: Our special guests arrive from Norway/Sweden.

7:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m. Get-acquainted fellowship at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie. (See map). Homestay hosts pick up their guests.

Saturday, September 16: 8:30 a.m.— 4:00 p.m. General Meeting, Small Group Workshops, Music, Fellowship and Food.

7:00 p.m. Psalmodikon players participate in a program with Ross Sutter, a folk musician, at the American Swedish Institute. There will be a tour of the Institute and refreshments following the program.

Sunday, September 17: Participation at the morning worship.

1:30 p.m. Program for the public at the Norwegian Lutheran Church at Franklin and 10th Avenue South in Minneapolis. In addition to our own Psalmodikon musicians, there will be several other performers of folk music.

Our Scandinavian guests will be here until Monday when they will be joining another tour group. Rodger and I are planning to have a picnic supper at our home on Sunday evening. Everyone is welcome to attend!

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As of this printing, I have received only 15 reservation cards from those who will be attending our Psalmodikon meeting. I hope to hear from many more of you in the days to come. Please let us know

as we need to plan for food quantity!

The Nordiska Psalmodikonforbundet of Norway/Sweden is sending a good representation, therefore it is up to the rest of us to attend in sufficient numbers.

I am sorry to hear that the founder and leader of the Nordiska Psalmodikonforbundet, Rodney Sjoborg of Trollhattan, Sweden, had a heart attack last year and feels he is not strong enough to make the trip. He is a delightful man and is very knowledgeable about Psalmodikons. He has been collecting them since he was very young. It was under his guidance that we established the Psalmodikon Museum in Ostervalla, when I visited there in 1995. At that time he donated 40 Psalmodikons, from his own collection, to the Museum!

I send my best wishes to Rodney and his wife, Lizbeth. We will miss you very much and our thoughts will be of you all weekend.

I have had a fun time making all the arrangements for the home stays, food and entertainment. I know it will be a great weekend of fellowship and also learning more about the Psalmodikon and music from our Scandinavian visitors. And to think we can do all of this without even leaving the USA! We will value our relationships with other Psalmodikon players from Norway and Sweden.

If anyone would care to bring a plate of bars or cookies to go with the coffee, that would be appreciated. There will be a drawing for door prizes, so if you have something that you would like to donate, that would make it even more fun. Gift wrapping the item would keep it a surprise!



Perhaps you have some favorite melodies that you have learned to play on the Psalmodikon. Bring the song sheets along, that way we can learn from each other. I have included, in this newsletter, Sifferskrift music of songs that we have played at previous meetings. You might want to practice up on these as well.

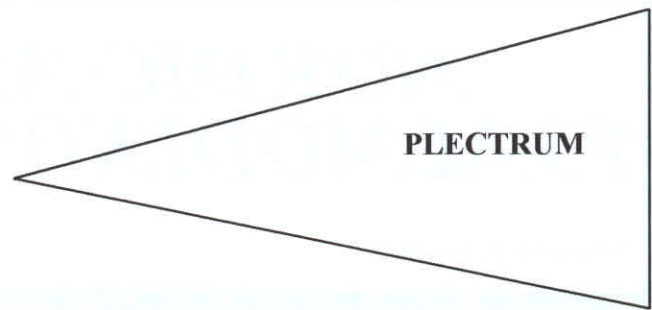
The Psalmodikon and I had a great time again this July 28-30, demonstrating and performing during the Nordic Fest in Decorah, Iowa. I was so pleased when Sonja Olson of Anoka came and relieved me while demonstrating in the Bethania Church, on Friday afternoon. She had a delightful time doing so and I appreciated the break.

I am so pleased to hear recently of several other Psalmodikon players who feel comfortable enough playing the Psalmodikon and have been participating in programs. Namely, Jean Akre, Portland, OR, Sonja Olson, Anoka, MN, Olive Forbord, Benson, MN, Lydia droege-mueller, Plymouth, MN, and the Foslien family. Recently I have had the privilege of practising with three members of the Foslien family every Tuesday afternoon. They were tuning up for their Family Reunion in August. Perhaps you recall the story of how Nola Foslien, Brandon, MN, took the old family Psalmodikon to the family reunion auction four years ago? Floyd Foslien of Hudson, WI, her nephew, was the highest bidder. Each year since then, he has made a Psalmodikon to put up for bid at the auction. The Psalmodikon at this year's reunion was sold to the highest bid of \$490.00!!

Thanks to you folks, who contribute in so many different ways. We know the history and music of the Psalmodikon will not be forgotten.

The video **"How to Play the Psalmodikon"** has finally been completed and is now on the market. I have been working on that production since I returned from Florida last March. It was a lot of fun but became a long and costly project. The first part tells the history of the Psalmodikon, how to tune the instrument and then how to play using the bow or plectrum. Followed by several songs to play along with. They sell for \$15.00 each, plus postage and packaging.

Last May when the Psalmodikon and I were participating at a nearby festival, I got to talking to one of the visitors about music, instruments and such. He then pulled out the neatest little "plectrum" that he said he had cut from a plastic milk bottle. It works so nicely when plucking the string of the Psalmodikon. Here is a pattern, if you would like to make one for yourself.



Some time ago, I attended a music program put on by the Latvian folks here in town. One of the instruments that were played looked much like a Psalmodikon except the bridge was in the middle and it had two sheep-gut strings. It was played with a violin bow and it is called a Giga.



## IS THIS POSSIBLE?

Bob Solum of Hawley, MN, made a Psalmodikon and also a bow for which to play it. He tells me that the bow did not play very well. So in talking to an old violin maker, was told that the hair had to go in alternating directions. His bow now produces very beautiful sounds on his Psalmodikon.

I talked to Eleanor Sandquist of Granite Falls, MN shortly after a tornado ripped through the town. I am happy to report that Eleanor and her family are thankful that they were safe in their basement and that their home had very little damage. Many of you remember Eleanor Sandquist as our host for the 1998 get together of the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet in Granite Falls.

For those of you coming to the Psalmodikonforbundet meeting and need overnight lodging, here is a listing of the most reasonably priced motels in Eden



Prairie:

Courtyard by Marriott 952-942-9100  
11391 Viking Drive

Fairfield Inn 952-903-9444  
11325 Viking Drive

Super 8 Motel 952-829-0888  
11500 West 78th Street

Hampton Inn 952-942-9000  
7740 Flying Cloud Drive

Extended Stay America 952-941-1113  
7550 Office Ridge Circle

**Looking forward to seeing all of you  
In September at the  
Psalmodikonforbundet 2000!**

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Performance at Nordic Fest, Decorah, Iowa
Burton Gran on the Autoharp
Beatrice Hole on the Psalmodikon
Walton Ofstedal (the Singing Farmer from Holmen, WI)

Please help us spread the word about our upcoming event. The following is an article I have submitted to the various Newspapers in the Twin City area. You may want to use this as a guideline.

NORDIC-AMERICAN PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET 2000

On the prestige scale, the Psalmodikon does not command the respect given, say of the guitar or the fiddle. It is down there with the likes of the ukulele.



Beatrice Hole at Psalmodikon performance in Florida

But with the right player, the Psalmodikon produces a large range of beautiful slow melodic tunes.

That will come as no surprise to the folks gathering on the weekend of Sept. 15, 16 & 17. The Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet will be host to members and guests coming from all over the United States and some as far away as Norway and Sweden.

Many are already good players, others are known as Psalmodikon enthusiasts, all of whom are interested in carrying on the Scandinavian Psalmodikon tradition.

Many people love the sound made by the Psalmodikon but in terms of thinking it as a serious instrument, it is overlooked because the Psalmodikon is homemade and has limited capabilities.

On the other hand, many folks respect the Psalmodikon because it is a simple instrument and we are making the most amount of music possible on it.

This year, the year 2000, the Nordiska Psalmodikonforbundet of Norway/Sweden will be holding a 'joint' meeting with the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet. The meeting will be held at the St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 13600 Technology Drive, Eden Prairie, MN on September 15, 16 & 17. This is the first time in the history of Psalmodikons that something like this has happened. The Psalmodikon group of Norway/Sweden has been holding annual meetings for 15 years, while the American group has been in existence for four years.

The Psalmodikon is a one-stringed instrument dating back to the early 1800's. It was first intended to lead the hymn singing in the country churches of Norway and Sweden that could not afford to have an organ. It became popular in the homes and schools as well. The immigrants brought their Psalmodikons with them to America and continued to play them until the early 1900's. One did not need to have any formal musical training as the Psalmodikon is played by using the Sifferskrift method (numbers).

The Nordiska Psalmodikonforbundet was celebrating their 10th Annual Meeting when Beatrice Hole of Eden Prairie, MN, made a trip to Sweden to take part in their get-together. It was a result of this meeting that prompted Beatrice to organize a group of Psalmodikon enthusiasts, here in America, in the fall

of 1997. Anyone can become a member of the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet by subscribing to a Quarterly Psalmodikon Newsletter, mailed to approximately 100 members, and written by Beatrice Hole. The Psalmodikon players will be performing for the public at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 17 at the Norwegian Lutheran Church, Franklin and 10th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN. Everyone is welcome. You may obtain more information on the Psalmodikon by contacting Beatrice Hole at 952-934-4535 or E-Mail: Enstreng B@aol.com.

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

Key of B flat

1 1 1 2 7 1
BEAU-TI-FUL SAV-IOR,

3 3 3 4 2 3
KING OF CRE-A-TION

5 1 6 5 4 3 4 3 2
SON OF GOD AND SON OF MAN!

5 6 5 5 3 4
TRU-LY I'D LOVE THEE,

4 5 4 4 2 3
TRU-LY I'D SER-VE THEE

3 3 3 5
LIGHT OF MY SOUL,

4 3 2 1
MY JOY, MY CROWN!

Written In Sifferskrift for Psalmodikon
av Beatrice Hole - 1992

PAL SINE HONER (Paul's Chickens)

Key of B flat

1 1 3 | 5 5 3 | 6 6 4 | 5 5
4 4 2 | 3 3 1 | 2 2 7 | 1 || Repeat

5 3 | 1 1 3 | 2 2 1 7 5

5 3 | 1 1 3 | 2 2 1 7 5

1 1 3 | 5 5 6 6 4 | 5 5

4 4 2 | 3 3 3 1 | 2 2 7 1 ||

Written in Sifferskrift for Psalmodikon
av Beatrice Hole - 1997

CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER

In this case, Number 1 is the same as B flat.

The second line is harmony.

Key of B flat

1 2 2 3 5 3 3 2
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 7

CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER

2 3 4 6 5 4 4 3
7 1 7 7 1 2 2 1
SAFELY IN HIS BOSOM GATHER

1 1 6 6 1 6 6 5
1 1 1 4 4 4 4 3
NESTLING BIRD NOR STAR IN HEAVEN

3 5 5 4 7 2 2 1
1 1 2 2 7 7 7 1
SUCH A REFUGE ER WAS GIVEN.

Written in Sifferskrift for Psalmodikon
av Beatrice Hole - 1992

LOVE ME TENDER

(The "International Song" of Psalmodikons)

Key of F

2 5 4+ 5 6 3 6
LOVE ME TEN-DER LOVE ME SWEET.

5 4+ 3 4+ 5
NEV-ER LET ME GO.

2 5 4+ 5 6 3 6
YOU HAVE MADE MY LIFE COM-LETE

5 4+ 3 4+ 5
AND I LOVE YOU SO.

7 7 7 7 7 7 7
LOVE ME TEN-DER LOVE ME TRUE,

7 6 5 6 7
ALL MY DREAMS FUL-FIL.

7 7 1 7 6 3 6
FOR MY DAR-LING I LOVE YOU,

5 4+ 3 4+ 5
AND I AL-WAYS WILL.

Written in Sifferskrift for Psalmodikon
Av Beatrice Hole - 1996

TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR

Key of F

5 5 2 2 3 3 2
TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR

1 1 7 7 6 6 5
HOW I WONDER WHAT YOU ARE!

2 2 1 1 7 7 6
UP ABOVE THE WORLD SO HIGH,

2 2 1 1 7 7 6
LIKE A DIAMOND IN THE SKY.

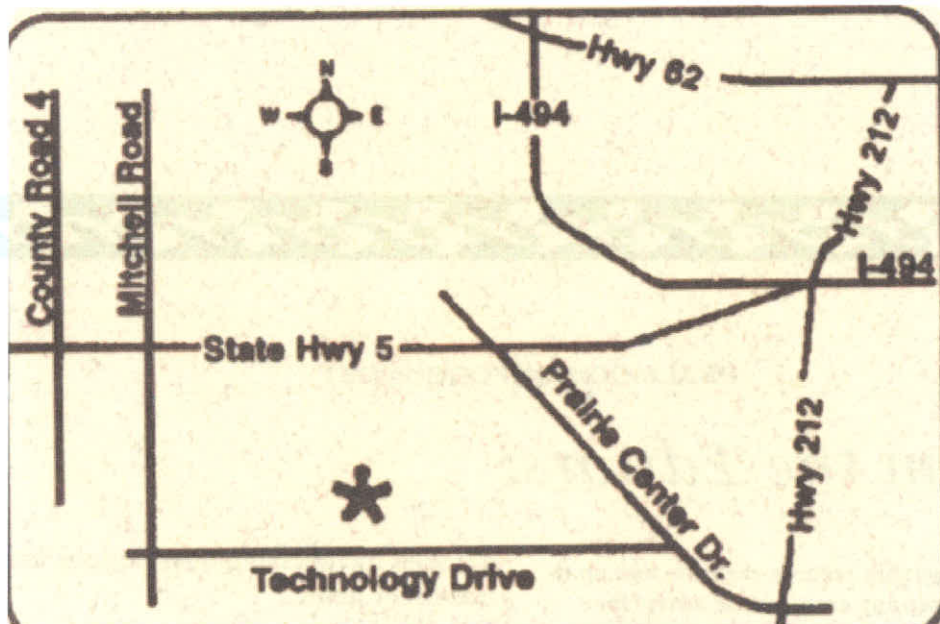
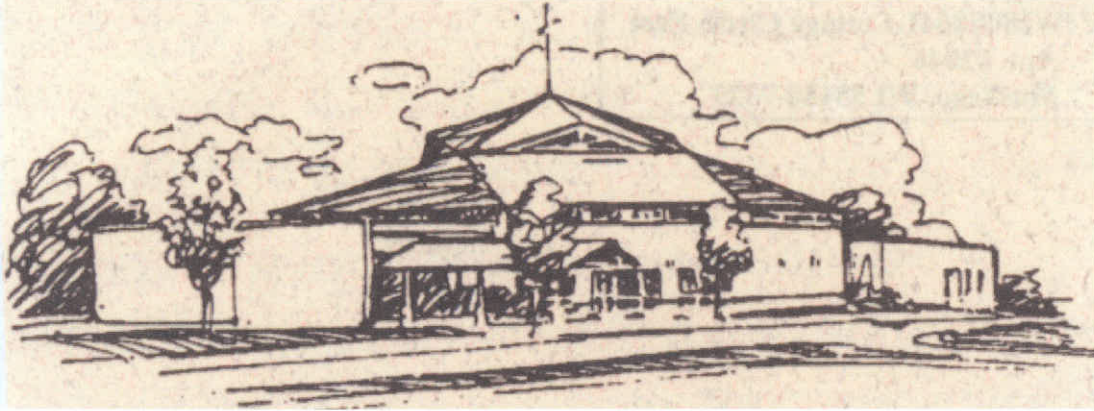
5 5 2 2 3 3 2
TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR

1 1 7 7 6 6 5
HOW I WONDER WHAT YOU ARE.

Written in Sifferskrift for Psalmodikon
Av Beatrice Hole - 1996

saint andrew Lutheran church

13600 Technology Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55344 (952-937-2776)



Psalmodikonforbundet 2000 location and directions.

Please note that there is construction on Highway #5 and on Mitchell Road. The best way to drive to St. Andrew Church is to exit off of Highway 5 (going West) to the right on Prairie Center Drive and turn right again on Technology Drive.

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The Norwegians have always known that Leif Erickson arrived in North America long before Columbus did. I recently heard that to be a fact, because when Columbus landed on the American shores he was greeted by the Indians and the first thing they asked him was, "Snakker du Norsk?"



NORDIC-AMERICAN PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET

Return **Larry & Deann Gjenvick**
Address: **W180S8641 Cottage Circle East**
 Apt. #2046
 Muskego, WI 53150-7323

Mailing
Address:

PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET

Notes from the Editors:

We try to keep our membership records accurate and up to date, however if you do note any error please advise the Editor for correction. Check the date on your mailing label which indicates if your dues are current. Dues for the year 2000 may be sent to Beatrice Hole. Thank you for your support!

The Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet Newsletter is published in March(April), August and November. The editor and staff are always looking for news worthy items or photos and welcome articles from members that you want to share with other readers.

Your \$5.00 membership fee helps to cover the cost of printing and postage for the Newsletter and also helps to defray the costs incurred at the Annual Meeting. The Newsletter is mailed to over 85 households as well as several Museums and other historical societies.

To send membership dues, letters, articles, pictures and other items:

Beatrice Hole
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Eden Prairie, MN 55346-2823

You may also E-Mail Beatrice at:
ENSTRENG B@aol.com