

FALL 2010

Volume 13, Issue 3



NOTES FROM MUSIC-ON-A-STRING

By Beatrice Hole

I trust you've all had a wonderful Summer and now we enter into the Holiday Season of family gatherings, baking, shopping and perhaps a few Lutefisk Dinners!

Last Tuesday morning I was at the Norwegian Lutheran Church of Minneapolis for their weekly gathering of waffles, coffee and fellowship; followed by a wonderful program in the sanctuary. As I sat there, I was thinking of how things change over time. The program was given by three Hardanger Fiddle players, a guitarist and two dancers all located in front by the Pulpit and the Altar. Less than 100 years ago, a setting like this would not have been allowed. Back then dancing was considered very sinful and because the fiddle (the instrument of the devil) was played for dances, neither of them was allowed in the church. Or even fifty years ago when the elders of my little country church would not allow me to play the accordion for a church program because I might start "jazzin" up the hymns. Of course, we all know that is the reason the little psalmodikon came into being and the rest is history.

It is hard to believe how time flies by. Next year will be my 20th year of "Life with the Psalmodikon". I have many happy memories of the years doing

research, music and performances along with meeting hundreds of wonderful people.

I will sign off with wishes to all of you for a blessed Christmas and Mange Takk for your continued support of the Psalmodikon organization.

May you always have a song in your heart and music at your fingertips!



Leland and Helen Lunos, Roseau, MN

Leland and Helen had acquired a very old psalmodikon found under the bed of a neighbor. Not knowing anything about it, they decided to take the psalmodikon to the Antiques Roadshow in Iowa hoping to learn something about it, but they came away disappointed because the host of the Show had never heard of the instrument.

After seeing the psalmodikon on our Web Site, Helen called me and decided to drive all the way down from northern Minnesota to attend our meeting. They were so enthused with the instrument and its history, they signed up to be members of the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet that day! Helen was a fast learner and joined in playing with the other psalmodikon players on Sunday morning at the Norwegian Lutheran Church!

PSALMODIKON ANNUAL MEETING

The 14th annual meeting of the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet was held on Saturday, September 18, 2010 at the home of Rodger and Beatrice Hole in Eden Prairie. There were 15 psalmodikon players present. Jean Akre of Kalama, WA traveled the farthest to attend the meeting!

We enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch at noon along with much visiting and catching up on the happenings of this past year.

Thanks to the suggestion of Ross Sutter, we had special visitors, Ginny and Toby of Syracuse, New York. They were on their way to participate at the Høstfest in Minot, ND. and were very curious to see and hear the psalmodikon. We, in turn, were very interested in learning more about the instruments they brought along with them; the Nyckelharpa, an instrument native to Sweden, and the Hardanger fiddle (Hardingfele), native to Norway. They introduced us to a new song, the "Psalmodikonvalsen", which we are planning on learning to play on the psalmodikon. They gave us their CD recording of the song to assist us in learning it.

The panel of officers (Beatrice Hole, Eden Prairie, MN; Floyd Foslien, Hudson, WI; and Larry Gjenvick, New Berlin, WI) seems to be working quite well. Thanks to the Internet, the correspondence between officers is very easy. All of the dues are sent to Beatrice Hole, who then deposits the checks in a local bank, and the statements are sent to Larry Gjenvick, who then reconciles them and also writes checks, when necessary. All done with the approval of Floyd Foslien.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent playing and practicing the songs we had chosen to play at the Norwegian Lutheran Church in Minneapolis for both of their Sunday morning worship services. The following players present on Sunday were: Ruth Gibson, Kathy Pedersen, Jean Akre, Helen Lunos, Beatrice Hole, Floyd Foslien and Kay Montgomery.

There were 21 present for the evening dinner held at the "Taste of Scandinavia" restaurant in Bloomington, MN.

Ruth Gibson has volunteered to host the Psalmodikon Annual Meeting in 2011.

Respectfully submitted, Beatrice Hole, Ordfører

VISITORS FROM NEW YORK



Ginny and Toby from Syracuse, NY told the history of the Swedish Nyckelharpa and the Norwegian Hardanger fiddle (Hardingfele). They also taught us an appropriate song, "Psalmodikonvalsen", which is a melody very suitable to be played on the psalmodikon.

HØSTFEST VISITORS HEAR CD AT RUNESTONE MUSEUM

Recently we had visitors from Green Bay, WI. They were on a tour bus going to the Høstfest in Minot, ND. On the way the bus stopped at the Runestone Museum in Alexandria, MN. (a big seller of our Psalmodikon CD's). As they entered the Gift Shop they heard psalmodikon music. Not only were they surprised but proud that they knew all about the psalmodikon and the musicians!

RECIPE SHARING CORNER

Chocolate Raspberry Bars

1 cup all-purpose flour
¼ cup confectioner's sugar
½ cup butter or margarine

Filling:

½ cup seedless raspberry jam
4 oz. cream cheese, softened
2 tablespoons milk
1 cup vanilla flavored chips, melted

Glaze:

¾ cup semisweet chocolate chips
2 tablespoons shortening

In a bowl, combine flour and confectioner's sugar. Cut in butter until crumbly. Press into an ungreased 9-inch square pan. Bake at 375 degrees for 15-18 minutes or until browned. Spread jam over warm crust. In a small mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and milk until smooth. Add vanilla chips; beat until smooth. Spread carefully over jam layer. Cool completely. Chill until set, about 1 hour.

For glaze, melt chocolate chips and shortening; spread over filling. Chill 10 minutes. Cut into bars; chill another hour. Store in refrigerator. Yield: 3 dozen.

This is the recipe of the delicious bars that Joan Saathoff brought to the Psalmodikon Potluck.

LETTERS FROM READERS

*Hi Beatrice,
(November 2009) We are thinking about doing a program on the psalmodikon for Sons of Norway and then hold a workshop to build some.*

*(Linda continued correspondence with a few more questions, followed by this letter:
(August 2010) We have succeeded in building our own psalmodikons and have our little psalmodikon group going and enjoying it! Did the drones just resonate by themselves when the one string was bowed?*

*Linda Shoemith, Bettendorf, IA
Storelva Sons of Norway Lodge 1-655*

The following is the answer to Linda's inquiry from Lars-Eric Lauenstein, Sweden

The drones resonate by themselves when you play on the melody string. But it is important to tune the drones in some of the tunes in the scale. I have a psalmodikon with only two drones and another with 12. If you have 12 drones, you can tune one for every half tune in the scale. If you have less, you have to choose!

PSALMODIKON CD IN NORWAY

The producer of the Psalmodikon Quartet CD writes: I want to pass good news onto all of you. Your Psalmodikon CD was just accepted into the Norwegian Collection of Folk Music, which is maintained by the University of Oslo. The CD was sent to them yesterday. This makes the second Norwegian archives featuring the Psalmodikon CD, the other being in the Folk Music Museum in Sigdal, Norway. Also, a promotional CD was sent to a radio station in Northfield, MN. I read something the other day that lent me to believe they may, just may, have a sizable following. Jay Nelson

CHORAL DIRECTOR WITH PSALMODIKON

During the last three years, I have been corresponding and assisting one of our members, Erich Knapp, formerly of Menaga, MN. He was a graduate student in choral conducting and pursuing his Doctorate at North Dakota State Univ. Erich chose to research the psalmodikon for a doctoral-level music class and became a psalmodikon enthusiast! He had Aretta Skellinger build a Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass psalmodikons for him. The last I heard from him, he was planning on starting a psalmodikon group in his church, the Grace Lutheran Church of Wenatchee, WA, and feature them once a month. Erich is a fifth-generation Norwegian celebrating his ancestry!

ITEMS FOR SALE

PSALMODIKON QUARTET CD **\$15.00 pp**

Send orders to:

Singsaas Lutheran Church, Attn: Music CD's
P. O. Box 191, Hendricks, MN 56136
www.countrychurchmusic.com

PSALMODIKON COMPONENTS:

Psalmodikon Pattern	10.00
Fret Wire	3.00
Tuning Peg	3.75
String	1.25
Fine tuner w/tailpiece	10.00
Maple fret board w/frets	25.00
Sitka spruce top material	12.00
Cherrywood violin bow	25.00
Rosin	3.50

Send orders to: Floyd Foslien
567 High Ridge Dr.
Hudson, WI 54016
ffoslien@sbcglobal.net

PSAMODIKON CD FROM SWEDEN

A group of psalmodikon players in Sweden have just made a recording of psalmodikon music. There are 21 hymns and traditional Swedish songs on the disc, played by two sopranos, one alto and one bass. They can be purchased for \$10.00. For more information send e-mail to:
goran.kelly@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet Newsletter is published in the Spring, Summer and Fall. The **Membership fee is \$8.00** which covers the cost of printing and postage for the Newsletter and also part of the expenses for the Annual Meetings.

Send membership dues to: Beatrice Hole
6560 Leesborough Ave
Eden Prairie, MN 55346

WINNING BIDERS

If you recall, I wrote an article, in the Spring 2010 issue, of an opportunity to place bids on two psalmodikons. The instruments were made by Rodney Sjøberg of Trollhattan Sweden, who is founder and chairman of the Swedish Psalmodikonforbundet.

The two winners of the bidding contest were won by members, Jean Akre of Kalama, WA and Floyd Foslien of Hudson, WI. Floyd vacationed in Norway and Sweden this Summer and during his travels he picked up the two psalmodikons, from Lennart Magnusson of Karlskoga Sweden, and brought them back to the USA. Jean and Floyd brought their new psalmodikons along to the Annual Meeting and so we all had a chance to see them. The psalmodikons were constructed per Rev. Johan Dillner's (1785-1862) instructions and are therefore Soprano instruments.



Herb Nelson, one of our members from Lake Elmo, MN recently visited the Selbu Kirke in Norway, where his mother's parents were married. The old parsonage has been turned into a wonderful museum and while wandering around, what to his wondering eyes should appear, PSALMODIKONS!

