

Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet

“ A Society dedicated to the education and preservation of the Psalmodikon and Sifferskrift Music. ”



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Notes from MUSIC-ON-A-STRING

Beatrice Hole

We are at the end of another great season and full of wonderful thoughts of all activities that have taken place. One fond memory is of the Psalmodikon Annual Meeting. What a great day that was of not only visiting and learning new songs, and (for some, the first time of “hands on” the psalmodikon) to play song after song all day.

It is good to have so many supportive members and knowing that our Treasury is holding its own with enough monies to cover the cost of publishing the Newsletters. Thanks to each and every one of you!

I’ve heard from Kathy Pedersen and her group of psalmodikon players who are very active in the Wisconsin area. Sometimes they have to avoid double booking! Jean Akre, Jim and Linda Dalrymple, and their group, are busy giving psalmodikon programs in parts of Oregon and Washington. I just received a letter from Leland and Helen Lunos of Roseau, Minnesota with a photo of their psalmodikon display at a Smithsonian visiting exhibit on the “History of Music in America” held in their hometown. Hjørdis Helgestad often demonstrates at the local festivities in her area of Onalaska, Wisconsin—there many others are out promoting the psalmodikon in words and music.

Keep up the good work!

— MERRY CHRISTMAS &
HAPPY NEW YEAR!! —



ANNUAL MEETING

The Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet met on 11-12th August 2012 from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM. The meeting was held in the new Fellowship Hall of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Hudson, Wisconsin.

In addition to the food, fellowship, and music there was a very interesting display set up by Beatrice Hole and Floyd Foslien showing their collections of historical psalmodikons.

Special guests included Solveig Storhoff, daughter of the late Henry Storhoff, who was a well-known psalmodikon player in Minnesota during the 1970s and 1980s. Solveig brought along her father’s psalmodikon with the stand, travel case, music, and newspaper articles depicting his playing career. Paul and Betty Knivslund of North St. Paul

joined us for coffee. Paul and Harlis Anderson built many psalmodikons in the 1990s.

The catered lunch was sponsored by the Nordic-American Psalmodikon Quartet. In the evening everyone enjoyed a dinner at Mama Maria’s Restaurant in Hudson.



On Sunday morning the psalmodikon players participated at the 9:00 AM worship service at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church.



SHE IS BACK ON HER FEET AGAIN!

On September 1, for Ruth Gibson, a longtime member, the world came to a near standstill. As we all know, Ruth is an avid gardener, as well as a psalmodikon player. In her usual kind way Ruth was bringing some tomatoes over to her neighbor, when she tripped and landed on her left side. Unfortunately, she broke her hip (I did not hear how the tomatoes came out). She has had surgery, therapy, and is doing fine. Thanks to her very dear sister—who came from Florida and took care of the homestead—Ruth had a speedy recovery.

CHORAL-MELODIER FOR PSALMODICON

An introduction to the psalmodikon as well as hymns written in Sifferskrift, by Royal Decree of 1 June 1835, authorized Hymn Book, together with a *Guide for the Use of Psalmodicon*.

This songbook was published in Christiania 1840. Later editions were published in 1862 and 1866 by Jacob Andreas Lindeman. (Jacob is from the family of the great Ludvig Lindeman whose name is associated with many familiar hymns as “Easter Morrow Stills our Sorrow”, “The Leaves Upon the Linden”, “Built On a Rock the Church Does Stand” and many others.)

Translated from the FORWARD — It was written for the purpose of the betterment of church song in this country. Therefore, the Psalmodicon, for the common people is very superior remedy to teach themselves and learn chorals must be more and more widespread. This has not existed in our language and I have not known of any introduction to the Psalmodicon before this and is long awaited.

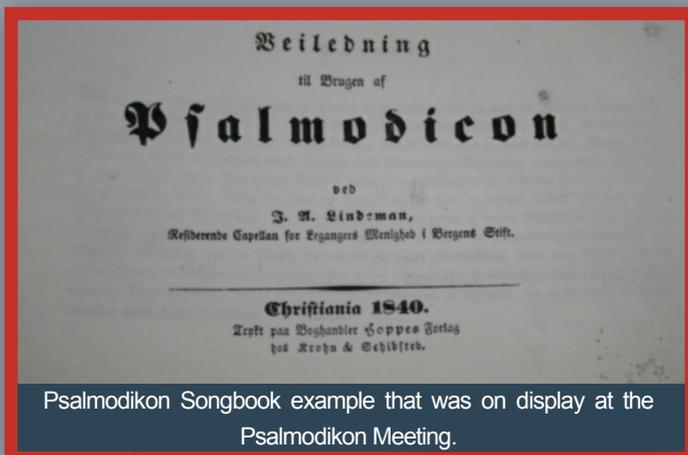
In many places in the country, the Psalmodicon is of different shape and value. It is very important to have the right classification on the catch board. But for the songs it isn't so important to have a correct example. In the organization of the Royal Department of the Church and Educational System is Mr. Roverud, song teacher at the Norwegian University of Theology Seminary, who we give credit to

so many other impulses to the betterment of the church songs, also owes betterment of the Psalmodicon. To undertake himself to hand over a considerable number of Psalmodicons so every Parish can have one for a sample as could be used to model after which another could be ordered.

With preparations of this introduction, I have taken into the consideration of Mr. Roverud's published Psalmodicon, and followed the same treatment. I have followed my own method as is: founded on many years' experience, in what I have taught in music, partly as organist and cantor with our Saviour Assembly in Christiania, partly as teacher with Usters Seminary, and have showed itself easy and understandable. As is difficult with musical objects, written to make it understandable, they too, in music, un consecrated so I believe this little publication, have attained my intention in this regard.

—J. A. Lindeman,
12 May 1840 Christiania.

Perhaps there are other readers of this Newsletter that have a copy of these early publications of *Choral-Melodier for Psalmodicon*.



Psalmodikon Songbook example that was on display at the Psalmodikon Meeting.



Unique Double-stringed Psalmodikon

This psalmodikon is owned by Beatrice Hole and was created by Paul Knivslund of North St. Paul in 1995. Beatrice came home with the idea from a psalmodikon meeting in Sweden in 1995. Janne Martensson and Eric Rorborn, members of the Nordiska Psalmodikonforbundet, owned one such instrument and enjoyed playing it.

Usually a psalmodikon has only one string, but this instrument is a bit larger, with an open back and has two strings side by side. It measures 46" long, 4 1/2" wide, and 3 1/2" deep. It is called it a "tandem" psalmodikon. Both strings are tuned alike and played at the same time. Kind of a novelty!

Nordic-American Psalmodikonfor- bundet & Newsletter

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The Newsletter is published using Page-Plus X6 (www.serif.com) and is printed in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Holmødiken

COLLECTIONS



Beatrice Hole displayed several psalmodikons in her collection, including the Psalmodikon of her mentor, Harlis Anderson, with its traveling case and a hand-carved statue of Harlis.



These items on the display table were the five psalmodikons now belonging to Beatrice Hole. They were played by the Wisconsin Ladies Quartet in the 1930s.

Psalmodikon Collection of Floyd Foslien



The late Nola Foslien and her husband of Alexandria, Minnesota.

Nola played the psalmodikon during the same period as Henry Storhoff and no doubt he shared his idea of using a stand while playing the psalmodikon.

The psalmodikons (top, right) are from the collection of Floyd Foslien.

Nephew Floyd Foslien now has Nola's psalmodikon and stand. These were part of the psalmodikon display at the Psalmodikon Annual Meeting.



CARRYING ON THE TRADITION



Once again Floyd and Beatrice were invited to participate at the Nordic Fest in Decorah, Iowa on 27-28 July 2012.

It is a great honor to be invited and take part in this wonderful festival. This was the 21st year for Beatrice and the 11th for Floyd. This tradition goes back to the days when Henry Storhoff would play at the Nordic Fest. Later Harlis Anderson and Beatrice Hole were invited to participate. This was back when, in addition to demonstrating all day long, one was expected to participate on the stage of the downtown theater where all the great fiddle and accordion players would perform.

And so it is a privilege to be invited each year and carry on this great tradition of telling hundreds of visitors the history of the psalmodikon and to play for them our favorite songs.



Solveig Storhoff and Floyd Foslien

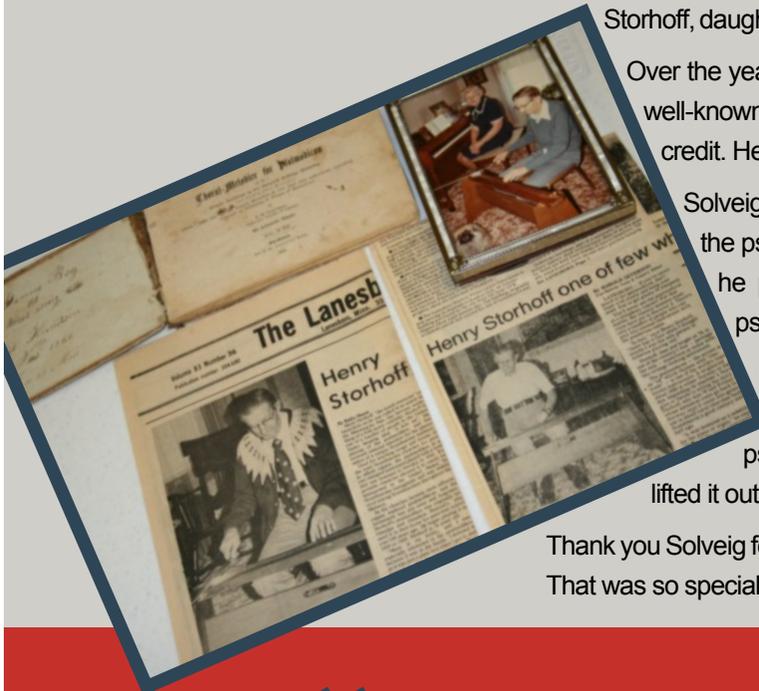
At the Psalmodikon Annual Meeting, we were much honored to have as our special guest Solveig Storhoff, daughter of the late and great Henry Storhoff, who resided in Lanesboro, Minnesota.

Over the years the name Henry Storhoff has been mentioned many times. Henry was a well-known fiddle and psalmodikon player and many articles have been written to his credit. He died in 1987. He served as a mentor to Nola Foslien and Harlis Anderson.

Solveig inherited her dad's psalmodikon and brought it along for display along with the psalmodikon case, the wooden stand that held the psalmodikon in place while he played it, and other items of interest describing her dad's days with the psalmodikon.

If you can imagine how the members watched with much interest as Solveig opened the wooden case that held Henry's psalmodikon. There was the old psalmodikon wrapped *very gently* in a "flour sack" cotton towel, and as she lifted it out of the box, it seemed to reveal the many stories we have read of him.

Thank you Solveig for sharing these very treasured pieces of history in the life of the Psalmodikon. That was so special!



“Memorabilia from Henry Storhoff's display included photos, newspaper clippings, and an original Psalmodikon Song Book.”

11 August 2012 — Nordic-American
Psalmodikonforbundet Annual Meeting

MEETING PHOTOS



Floyd Foslien, Joan Saathoff, and Kathy Pedersen.



Floyd Foslien playing his psalmodikon on the stand from his aunt Nola (see p. 3 for more information).



*Caroline Lenselink, Sue Krueger, Ruth Gibson, and
Cindy Monroe.*



Hjordis Helgestad, Barbra Charlson, and Caroline Lenselink.



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

ITEMS FOR SALE

PSALMODIKON SONGBOOK (revised edition) written in Sifferskrift and 4-part harmony for psalmodikons
\$19.00 pp

PSALMODIKON QUARTET CD \$15.00 pp

Send orders to:

Singsaas Lutheran Church
Attn: Music CD's
P. O. Box 87,
Hendricks, MN 56136
<http://www.countrychurchmusic.com/>

PSALMODIKON COMPONENTS

Psalmodikon Pattern	\$10.00
Fret Wire	3.00
Tuning Peg	3.75
String	1.25

Send orders to:

Floyd Foslien
567 High Ridge Drive
Hudson, WI 54016
www.ffoslien@sbcglobal.net

Psalmodikons at Landmark Center in St. Paul, Minnesota

The Synnøve Nordkap Lodge of the St. Paul Sons of Norway is having a display at the Landmark Center, in St. Paul, Minnesota from 21 February through 21 June 2013. This will include a display of psalmodikon history, and they are seeking players to perform and demonstrate on Saturday, May 25th. It is an honor that they are interested in profiling the psalmodikon in this display.

NORDIC-AMERICAN

PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET



MUSIC-ON-A-STRING

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