

NORDIC-AMERICAN PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET

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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 Sjoberg 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!

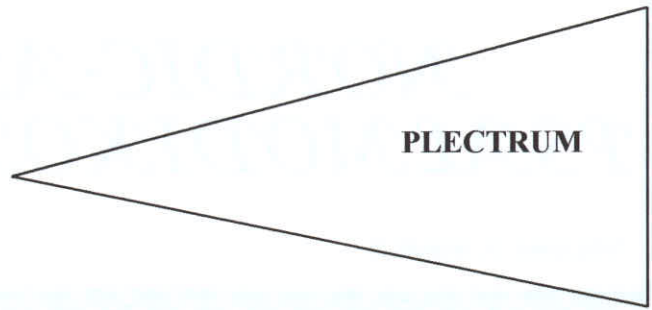
Perhaps you have some favorite melodies that you have learned to play on the Psalmodikon. Bring the song sheets along, that way we can learn from each other. I have included, in this newsletter, Sifferskrift music of songs that we have played at previous meetings. You might want to practice up on these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