

# NORDIC-AMERICAN PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

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## NOTES FROM MUSIC-ON-A STRING By Beatrice Hole

Happy Spring!

As I write this Newsletter, we Minnesotans are beginning to wonder when the "white ground cover" will finally melt off and it will start to feel like Spring. We have had one of the longest and coldest Winters on record!

This year, 2001, did not get off to a real good start for my family and I. Just after Christmas my Mother was diagnosed with cancer of the liver. She lived only two more months and I spent most of that time with her at her home in Crookston, MN. My Dad passed away 22 years ago, but when the last parent dies, it gives one a feeling that is hard to put into words.

But life goes on and now I am trying to catch up on unfinished projects and getting back into a familiar routine once again.

We can look forward to the Spring and Summer months when musicians have many opportunities to not only participate in many festivals but also to hear and learn new tunes.

Perhaps some of you will have an opportunity to do a demonstration on the Psalmodikon. It is a very fun and easy presentation to do. The visitors like to hear the history/story of the Psalmodikon and to hear a few notes or a short little melody. It is nice to have a sheet of the old Sifferskrift music, maybe an outline of the history and, of course, your name card — for future reference. Give it a try—you can do it!

*I appreciate all your kind letters regarding our fun meeting last Fall and also the Newsletter that followed. Hopefully, you can find some interesting facts in this letter also.*

*In the meantime, keep practicing!*



## NORDIC-AMERICAN PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET 2001

Mark your calendars for the next meeting of the Psalmodikon enthusiasts.

It will be held on the weekend of September 14, 15 & 16, 2001. I am still waiting for someone to volunteer and help host the next meeting. If not, I will most likely make arrangements for a weekend program here in the Minneapolis area. Let me know if you are interested in helping???



## SUMMER PROJECT

As I travel around this Summer, one of my projects will be to compile a listing of photos and history on Psalmodikons that are located in the various Museums throughout the state of Minnesota. I would appreciate your help on this as I will not be able to be in contact with all of them. Let me know what you find, and where it is located.



## Our Website for the Psalmodikon

Helena Odvall of the Nordiska

Psalmodikonforbundet writes that they held a winter meeting in February. This is something that had not been done before, but they felt that they had so much to share with those who were not able to join them on their trip to Eden Prairie, MN for the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet.

The next meeting of the Nordiska Psalmodikonforbundet will be held August 17-19, 2001. Helena and Ann-Marie will host the meeting in Vastergotland SWEDEN.

Would anyone be interested in attending? If so, please contact me as I am seriously thinking about going.

If you are studying your map as to the exact location — (Vanga & Bredared). East of Gotebord and a little north of Boras.



Video Tapes for Sale:

### “HOW TO PLAY THE PSALMODIKON”

Instructions on how to tune and play the Psalmodikon. You can also play along with several songs. Sifferskrift music included.

Send \$15.00 to: Beatrice Hole  
6560 Leesborough Avenue  
Eden Prairie, MN 55346  
(952) 934-4535  
E-Mail: Enstreng B@aol.com



**Question:**

What is a Vienstidzis?

**Answer:**

The Latvian name for the Psalmodikon.

David Hovde has created a web page our our Psalmodikon information. He will be updating and keeping the information current.

David would appreciate any information that you can contribute and he will add it to the Psalmodikon web page. After reading the contents of the Web page, you may have photos or remember a bit of history that could be included.

Send all comments, additions and corrections to:  
David Hovde  
P. O. Box 129  
Mulberry, IN 46058-0129

REMEMBER THIS IS OUR WEB SITE AND WE MUST KEEP IT INTERESTING!

The Web site address is as follows:

[www.dcw.com/~hovde/psalmodikon](http://www.dcw.com/~hovde/psalmodikon)

If you haven't been there yet - give it a try and see how the Web page has given us "world-wide" exposure.



I want to thank everyone who has sent in their Membership Dues for the year 2001. There are still a few of you that we have not heard from. Check your mailing label to see if your membership is current. Then you will continue to receive the Newsletter. Because of costs involved in printing and mailing of the Newsletter those whose dues are not current must be dropped from our membership lists—and we most certainly do not like to lose friends of the Psalmodikon. The cost is modest and it only takes a stamp to send your \$5.00 to let us know that you are still interested in what is happening with the Nordic-American Psalmodikonfurbundet!





Nordic Fest—Decorah, Iowa  
July 27 & 28, 2001

On February 7, 2001, I received a letter from Jennifer Johnston, the Director of Education at the Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, Iowa. Vesterheim has invited the Psalmodikon to take part in the Nordic Fest on July 27 & 28. This will be the 10th year that I have participated in this festival with the Psalmodikon. We are very fortunate that they have, once again, stationed us in the “air conditioned” Bethany Church. This is the best place to be as the weather in Iowa can be pretty uncomfortable at that time of the year!

It would be fun if some of you would come and take a turn with the demonstration. The church is open to visitors from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p. m. each day and so the Psalmodikon is on display all of that time. It is an enjoyable weekend and such good exposure for the Psalmodikon.

Let me know if you are interested.



Letters from our members- - - - -

*“I was happy to receive the December Newsletter—of how busy your Psalmodikons made you all! I miss that instrument, but I have to remember life changes every day. I know the Psalmodikon was mainly used for churches, but has anyone tried **Big Rock Candy Mountain?** For me, the fingering was so easy! Was fun to play” ... ..  
Nola Foslien, Brandon, MN*

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*“Such an exceptional Newsletter that arrived this week. Your entire “crew” needs to be congratulated. This past week I ran across the missing parts for my large wooden instrument. Now, with the Newsletter and the finding of the missing parts, I would like to receive a copy of your VCR tape... ..  
Donald R. Jorgensen, Willmar, MN*

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*“Just want you to know that I enjoyed the Psalmodikon Concert (at Mindekirken Church) last Sunday—and appreciate your efforts at arranging the event. (Annual Meeting) Also,*

*enjoyed the coffee hour with all the Scandinavian goodies”....  
Lorraine Johnson, Golden Valley, MN*

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*“We had a glorious time in Eden Prairie, enjoying the Psalmodikon Convention. I had doubts about this instrument, possibly due to my violin background, but the lovely harmony and the friends we made will long remain with us. We look forward to many more contacts!.....Thank you for all your intense work in arranging this wonderful weekend” .....*  
Maynard Lintvedt, Canton, SD

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*“Enjoyed the Newsletter! Thanks”.....  
Betty Nelson, White Bear Lake, MN*

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*“I wanted to congratulate you on a superb edition of the Newsletter for the Psalmodikonforbundet. You did an outstanding job of covering the annual meeting. What a wonderful memory that is for us all who attended.”.....  
Sonja & Howard Olson, Anoka, MN*

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*“This last Newsletter was awesome. I rally enjoyed reading it and seeing all those pictures in color.”.....  
Dorothy Randolph, Lubbock, TX*

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*“It was a grand time. Thank you so much!”.....  
Shirley Sorenson, Zimmerman, MN*

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*“Wow! I continue to be impressed by your devotion to the Psalmodikon. The quality of the communications and Newsletter is outstanding.”.....  
Wendy Storhoff, Minneapolis, MN*

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Brudeferd I Hardanger (1848)