

# NORDIC-AMERICAN PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET

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## NOTES FROM MUSIC-ON-A STRING

By Beatrice Hole

Today I write this Newsletter in a sad frame of mind and the uncertainty of the future of our country. Several weeks have passed since September 11 and I still wake up in the morning hoping it is all a bad dream. A senseless act of terrorism is leaving no one untouched, even here in the heartland of America.

It feels good to play the Psalmodikon and make music. **“Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life”.**

The 5th annual meeting of the Psalmodikons was a joyful event. I could tell that everyone who was there had been practicing all year. The songs from other years had become easy to play and we quickly caught on to the new songs. We are making progress and enjoying it!

If any of you that were unable to attend, but would like to have more information from our meeting, please get in touch with me.

We all enjoyed seeing all the Psalmodikons, bows and cases that Bud Albrecht had been making this past year. He surprised all of us by giving us our very own fold-away music stand that he had made. We thank Bud for these! Bud recently met some very friendly horses that were willing to share part of their tails with him so that he could make several Psalmodikon bows. Thus he named each bow using

the name of the horse that made the donation!

I also want to thank everyone for coming and those who brought Scandinavian treats; to Don and Ko-reen Gerdin-Paulson; Larry & Deann Gjenvick and Shirley Sorenson for all the special help they gave me. I could not have done it without them. Tusen Takk!

Nok for I dag! Happy Holidays to everyone. In the meantime, Keep practicing!

Hilsen, Beatrice Hole



## PSALMODIKON GOES MODERN!

I recently “updated” my favorite Psalmodikon. Verle Austad of Mindoro, Wisconsin sent me an apparatus to amplify the Psalmodikon, much the same as he does for the fiddle. It consists of a small transducer that is attached to the end of my Psalmodikon (with a gummy substance for easy removal) and the cable is then plugged into an amplifier. Works real well, and sounds great. Although I may not use this all the time, it is fun to make a big sound when I am practicing.



Back row: Larry Gjenvick, Fyllis Flannery, Floyd Foslien,  
Ruth Gibson, Bud Albrecht, Shirley Sorenson.  
Front row: Deann Gjenvick, Peggy Schramm, Olive Forbord,  
Ardyce Albrecht, Beatrice Hole.

### PSALMODIKON WEB SITE GETS NEW LOOK!

The existing web site is now in the hands of five students at Indiana University Purdue University in Indianapolis.

Under the direction of their professor, Marj Hovde, this web site team are going to create a nice professional looking site. It will be more functional, less complicated to update, and with an easier access for everyone.

Their goal of the web site is to provide awareness about the Psalmodikon society, provide a location for research on the Psalmodikon, and to gain membership into the society.

They welcome all suggestions from the members of the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet.

Tusen Takk to these students for their expertise on this project. Be sure to visit the web site:

[Http://php.iupui.edu/~dbeckman/index.html](http://php.iupui.edu/~dbeckman/index.html)

**Correction:** In the Newsletter, August 2001, the granddaughter of Elsie Thompson should have been written as Ruth Reitan, not Benson as printed. We apologize for this error.

### Membership Notes!

From its inception, the dues for membership in the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet have been kept at a modest annual amount of \$5.00 which covers the cost of 4 Newsletters during the year, postage for mailing to our members and also complimentary Newsletters to a number of cultural organizations, museums and individuals.

Due to increased costs of postage, membership cards are no longer being mailed to members, however, the mailing label on the Newsletter indicates your membership status. Dues for the year 2002 may now be sent to Beatrice Hole, 6560 Leesborough Avenue, Eden Prairie, MN 55346. Your continued interest and support is greatly appreciated! Thanks, Takk, Tusen Takk for you attention to your membership in the organization.



**LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS.....**

September 11,2001

Dear Beatrice,

I have enjoyed receiving the Psalmodikonforbundet Newsletter these past few years and following the activities of the group. I am headed to Oxford, England for two years to get my master's degree in Mathematics, and to cut down the volume of mail my parents will need to forward me, would like to ask that I be removed from the mailing list. Enclosed are my dues for 2001 — it wouldn't be fair to short you! I will keep your address and Gjenvick's and the new website, so don't be surprised if you hear from me again in a few years!

Your fellow friend of the Psalmodikon,  
David Swinarski



David Swinarski

I first met David in 1993 when Harlis Anderson and I performed with our Psalmodikons at the Goodhue County Historical Museum in Red Wing, Minnesota. David had just returned from Colorado for a competition in school projects, with the Psalmodikon and bow he had made.

My best wishes to with a very fine fellow!