



Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet



"A Society dedicated to the education and preservation of the Psalmodikon and Sifferskrift Music"

SUMMER 2011

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Notes from MUSIC-ON-A-STRING



Beatrice Hole

Life with the psalmodikon continues to be very entertaining. I still enjoy playing the psalmodikon, meeting so many wonderful folks and telling the story of an old and precious instrument.

This is my 20th year with the psalmodikon, and I think back to the beginning of my "career." It all began when I first met Harlis Anderson playing his psalmodikon for the Syttende Mai service at the Muskego Church on the campus of Luther Seminary in St. Paul in 1992. (I still participate at this service.)

Harlis and I enjoyed playing our psalmodikons together and went on to play at many venues until his death in the Fall of 1994. My first performance was on the theater stage at the Nordic Fest in Decorah, IA in July of 1992. This is the 20th year the psalmodikon



and I have participated at the Vesterheim Museum and Nordic Fest.

After the death of my playing partner, I continued doing solo performances, often up to 40 programs a year, traveling to many states plus Norway and Sweden. Little did I realize that my life with the psalmodikon would continue all these years.



It seems like a dream as I recall some of the places I have performed such as the:

Høstfest in Minot, ND; Nordic Fest in Decorah, IA; Svensk Hyllningsfest in Lindsborg, KA; Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival in Moorhead, MN; the airline flight to a Lutefisk dinner in Denver, CO; Scandinavian Celebration, Mission Hill, SD; Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN; Minnesota State Fair; teaching classes at the American Swedish Institute, Skogfjorden Concordia Language Camp at Bemidji, MN and the classrooms of Rosholt School District, Rosholt, WI; Pioneer Worship Service at Taylors Falls, MN with visiting Bishop Anders Wejryö of Sweden; Swedish Immigration Jubilee, Bayfront Park, Duluth; Premiere USA performance of Kristina frå Duvemåla, Chisago Lakes, MN; Norway Days at Minnehaha Park, Minneapolis; Nisswa Stammann, Nisswa, MN; Swedesburg Midsummer Fest, Swedesburg, IA; Swedish Immigration Jubilee at the Olof Swensson Farm Museum, Chippewa County Historical Society; Accompanying a choir at St. Marks Cathedral, downtown Minneapolis; Minnesota State Fair; Christian Women's Study group, Port Charlotte, FL; Adult Bible Study group, Chicago, IL; Sunday worship service in Tigard, OR; Prince of Peace Church, Battle Ground, WA; Scores of other church services, small ethnic festivals (indoors and outdoors), funerals, weddings, TV appearances, radio in Sweden, various newspaper interviews, etc.

Even though I have traveled far and wide, probably the most humbling experience was to participate at church services in Norway and Sweden; the annual Norwegian services at my little country church back home, in northwestern Minnesota, and my country school reunion.

I have rambled on long enough but without the encouragement of everyone along the way, all these opportunities would not have happened. Now I do less traveling as the psalmodikon web site has been a very good means to stay in touch as does the Psalmodikon Newsletter.

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

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AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE

On April 16, 2011 the American Swedish Institute held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Nelson Cultural Center and renovation of the lower level of the Mansion. The Swedish Institute will be closed to the public until this Fall. The new Cultural Center is expected to open next June 2012. Everyone is anxiously waiting for the Institute to open with new programs, more space and enhanced activities.

PSALMODIKON SONGBOOK

The second edition of "Music for Psalmodikon" is now available. It continues to be very popular as there were seven people on the waiting list for the new songbook! I give my thanks and appreciation to Kathy Pedersen for the many hours she has spent on transposing all the music into *Sifferskrift* and four-part harmony for the psalmodikon! She did a great job of editing, compiling and also added several new songs to the revised songbook.



Left: Mindekirken edifice,
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Photo: Kristen Åkre

MINDEKIRKEN – Minneapolis, MN

On Sunday, May 22, Rev. Ole Amund Gillebo and his wife Jorid from Ringsaker, Norway, where he is a pastor, visited Mindekirken. Pastor Gillebo was pastor at Mindekirken from 2000 – 2002.

Many folks gathered to hear him preach at the morning worship services. After the coffee hour Pastor Gillebo gave a presentation on the new liturgy approved for use by the Church of Norway at the Church of Norway General Synod meeting in April 2011. The new liturgy will be in use throughout Norway the first Sunday in Advent 2011.

Mindekirken uses the liturgy from the Church of Norway at their 11:00 a.m. Norwegian worship services and have some vested interest in knowing what is taking place liturgically within the Lutheran church in Norway.

(I felt that their new liturgy is very similar to the changes being introduced in the liturgy of the Lutheran Churches in America. –BH)

Editor's Note: Mindekirken is affiliated with the ELCA, and its web site is <http://www.mindekirken.org/>

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PSALMODIKONS

Ruth Gibson has offered to host the 15th Annual Psalmodikon get-together on August 27-28, 2011.

It will be held at the North Heights Lutheran Church in Roseville, MN; 1700 E. Highway #96. (Intersection of #96 and #10) The meeting begins at 9:00 a.m., and you may enter at Door 'A' of the church.

We will have our usual potluck lunch at noon and desserts and snacks. Beverages will be furnished. Dinner will be held at the Bear Tracks Restaurant in the Como Park Pavilion.

The psalmodikons have been invited to participate at the 9:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services on Sunday morning at North Heights Lutheran Church.

Everyone is welcome for a day of fun and fellowship if you play the psalmodikon or not. Bring your spouse and/or a friend!

RSVP to Beatrice Hole, enstrengb@aol.com or phone 952-934-4535.



JERRY BARTON DIES

Pete Ellertsen

In the last issue of the psalmodikon newsletter we published an article on Jerry Barton, of suburban Chicago, a multi-instrumentalist and woodworker who demonstrated a psalmodikon at the historic Swedish-American colony in Bishop Hill, IL. He died on Feb. 26, 2011, at the age of 60.

In addition to a variety of musical activities in the Chicago area, Jerry often gave dulcimer lessons at Bishop Hill and took an interest in the community there. His psalmodikon was a replica of an 1870 instrument on display in Bishop Hill's heritage museum. He designed it and enjoyed showing it to visitors during festivals there.

In a news release promoting one of his dulcimer workshops, the Henry County (Ill.) Tourism Bureau said Jerry was a "friend to Bishop Hill". He was a friend to amateur musicians of all kinds and to the psalmodikon in particular.

The *Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet Newsletter* is published in the Spring, Summer and Fall. We are always looking for newsworthy items and photos that you want to share with other readers.

The **\$8.00 membership fee** helps to cover the cost of printing and postage for the Newsletter, the annual fee for the Psalmodikon Web Site and the annual meeting expenses.

Check the date on your mailing label which indicates if your dues are current.

Send membership dues to:

Beatrice Hole
6560 Leesborough Ave
Eden Prairie, MN 55346



LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

Thanks so much for the new songbook—it is impressive—Lars and Johannes would be so proud of what you have accomplished over the years with the Psalmodikon group. And all who use the book will appreciate the fine selection of songs that are included. Good job, well done.

Larry G., New Berlin, WI

I have a psalmodikon made by Harlis Anderson in the early 1990's. I met him in Mona, IA where he played at the local Lutheran Church. I became interested in the instrument and he made one for me. I am looking for someone who would be interested in it. I see that you, perhaps, knew Harlis, as well. Let me know if you or someone you know has interest in this psalmodikon, please. Thanks.

K. Behnke

...I have many opportunities to talk about the psalmodikon when I guide at the Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, IA especially in the Egge cabin. I put in a "plus" for the organization then; there is quite a bit of interest in the psalmodikon.

Don B., Decorah, IA

My husband and I had a lovely conversation with Floyd and Fran Foslien last September when we took the psalmodikon to him for repair. He said turkey and deer seasons came before psalmodikon, which was fine with me. I just received an e-mail from him this past week saying they are ready for me, so we hope to get away from the cows long enough to visit Floyd and our new granddaughter, Solveig, born last September. Thanks so much for steering us to people who were familiar with psalmodikons. My father said he had probably gotten them at a household auction; he did not think they were from his family. It will still be interesting to share them with the members of our very Norwegian Lutheran congregation. Thanks again.

M. Peterson, South Wayne, WI

I want to tell you that I received my copy of the new "music for Psalmodikon" book. It was certainly more than worth the wait!

Pat Q., Olympia, WA



ITEMS FOR SALE

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

VIDEO "HOW TO PLAY THE PSALMODIKON"

Instructions on how to tune and play the psalmodikon. *Sifferskrift* music is included to play along with the video. The video also gives psalmodikon history and makes good program material for a presentation about psalmodikons. **\$15.00 pp**

Send orders to:

Beatrice Hole
6560 Leesborough Av.,
Eden Prairie, MN 55346

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
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 Drive,
Hudson, WI 54016
www.fffoslien@sbcglobal.net



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NORWAY DAYS 2011 – San Francisco, CA

Jean Akre

I was invited again this year to go to Norway Days in San Francisco to demonstrate the psalmodikon. What a wonderful time Paul and I had, although we were totally exhausted and had really sore feet from standing each day. Norway Days takes place at Fort Mason in San Francisco and is right on the San Francisco Bay. From the end of the building you can see Alcatraz. It was almost like old home week since lots of the vendors keep coming back each year. There are the vendors, performers, and exhibitors. Last year I met Ginny Lee, who made a guest appearance at our annual meeting in 2010 at Beatrice’s home. Then this year, Toby Weinberg, whom we also met at Beatrice’s, was there. Toby played his violin for a dance group, and Ginny was one of the dancers. I enjoyed talking to them again. This year, my table was right beside a couple from Beatrice’s Church. She teaches people to play two ancient Viking games, and he demonstrates how to make ropes. Then, of course, our actor friend, Rolf Stang, from New York was there last year for the first time and again this year. It is always great to see him.

I had a better location than last year for my booth, so people were able to hear my music better or maybe they did not have the music turned up so loud this year. I sold two of Floyd’s psalmodikon kits, one stayed in California and the other went to Norway to a lady by the name of Gunlaug Nøkland, who is an author. She was there promoting her recent book, *Legend of Siljatjern Seter: Life, Love and Faith on a Norwegian Mountain Dairy*, and decided she had to have the kit. Both women were thrilled to have their new instrument. Gunlaug also ordered the new song book. The lady from California went off with a smile from ear to ear.

Then a couple, Margaret and David Anderson, were talking to me and became very interested. Last year they went to Norway with her cousin. Her cousin purchased an antique to bring home. Margaret also wanted to have something old from Norway. Margaret purchased this wooden piece, but she could not understand what the sales person was saying except it was some kind of a musical instrument. If I remember correctly, she said it sounded like “harmonokin”. After I said *psalmodikon*, she said, I bet that is what he was saying. She said, “Oh my gosh, it is just like what you have”. She said she had it hanging on the wall but now she would see if she could play it.

I again sold some of the quartet’s CDs. It certainly helps to have a CD player so they can hear what they are purchasing. Everyone that hears and purchases really like the sound of the four psalmodikons together.

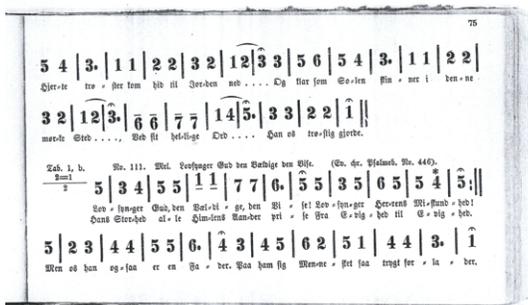


Jean Akre at Norway Days 2011. Photo: Paul Akre

So here in Washington, last autumn I had two gentlemen interested in playing the psalmodikon. Rick Swee has relatives in Minnesota whom he visited last year and came home with his psalmodikon, which was built by Richard Holter from Cohasset, Minnesota. Rick teaches at the Community College in Longview and also teaches Norwegian at the Sons of Norway in Kelso/Longview area. One of his Community College students, Brandon Swett, who is also in Rick’s Norwegian class decided he would like to learn to play the psalmodikon. So I loaned Brandon a small psalmodikon that a friend put together and gave me. Our friend’s wife told him that he or the psalmodikon had to leave as they have a small condominium, and she did not like how he could not play the instrument. So that is how I received the psalmodikon which I loaned to Brandon.

By the way, Rick and Brandon have done quite well since their first time playing. The three of us played at the *Julesangfest* in Portland in December, 2010. We had planned on playing again at the Syttende Mai Celebration in Kelso/Longview along with Jim and Linda Dalrymple, however, the Sons of Norway changed the date for their celebration of Syttende Mai, and it conflicted with my teaching a *lefse* class in Portland, so could not do both things at once, and the class date was set last autumn. Hopefully we will be able to get together and play during the prelude at the *Julesangfest* again this year.

As of this writing, July 4th, we have a beautiful sunny day. It usually is not this nice on the 4th, however, we will take what we can get of the sun!!!!



?? - Quiz - ??

Q: What is the name of the psalmodikon in Lithuania?

A: Answer is found on page 5.

TRIVIA TIME: Trondheim Today

The name *Trondheim* derives from the Old Norse (i.e. *normont* or *gammelnorsk*) word *Dróndheimr*, meaning “home of the strong and fertile ones”. The city was founded by Viking King Olav Tryggvason in AD 997, and occupies a special place in Norwegian culture and history. Trondheim was the nation’s first capital, and continues to be the coronation city where Norway’s king from Harald Hårfagre (872–933) to King Harald V (1991–) have been hailed, crowned and blessed. In its history, the city was and is now again a popular destination for pilgrimages. Trondheim is also an ecclesiastical center, a regional capital, a center for industry and commerce, and an important education and research center.

—from *The Norway Post*
May 2, 2011



New Newsletter Format

Starting this issue, you see there is a new look to the *Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet Newsletter*. Beatrice Hole’s cousin, Kristen Åkre in Washington state, has taken on the task to lay out the newsletter and be the new editor. I look forward to your comments and suggestions, and I certainly hope you like the version. Any words to that effect may be directed to either Beatrice or directly to me at kdakre@comcast.net.

OUT IN THE WORLD OF TECHNOLOGY

Many of you may or may not know about all the exposure that psalmodikons get out in the world. Doing a search on the internet, it is interesting to find the number of videos that can be found on YouTube.com alone, for instance. On that web site, entering the key word “psalmodikon”—without scrutiny—13 results are returned.

There is also an article on the now famous Wikipedia.org encyclopædic web site. The article has been written in English, Norwegian (*bokmål* and *nynorsk*), and Swedish. The *nynorsk* version appears to be the better version of the articles with the most information available. With Wikipedia’s open editing “community”, we should urge members who can translate from the *nynorsk* to the other three versions to help enhance those articles and the exposure of psalmodikons worldwide.

Another site of interest might also be the Association of Psalmodikon Players:

http://vanhise.lss.wisc.edu/nafmp/?q=Association_of_Psalmodikon_Players

Answer: manliarke

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, JUNE 2011

Music critics call Eddie van Halen one of the most influential rock guitarists of the 20th century. Recently, he donated his custom-made guitar *Frankenstein 2* to the Smithsonian Institution. He also received a patent on a “musical instrument support”. That patent came out of a technique he used when playing the guitar’s fingerboard; laying it flat, using both hands at the same time, and he needed the fingerboard to face upward like the keyboard of a piano. (Smithsonian Magazine)

This sounds very familiar! Supposedly there is a psalmodikon instrument at the Smithsonian Institution—Although I’ve not spoken with anyone who has seen it there.

I remember when Harlis Anderson and I received a Certificate of Registration from the Copyright Office at The Library of Congress in Washington D.C.

On September 15, 1994 we submitted a song for psalmodikon “Vesterheim Waltz”, Music by Harlis Anderson 1990, Harmony and Lyrics by Beatrice Hole 1993.

Høstfest 2011

I am sure everyone has heard of the devastating floods that have occurred in the city of Minot, North Dakota. Hopefully they will recover in time to accommodate the crowds that flock to their town for the Nordic Høstfest celebration, September 28, 29, 30 - October 1. Keep in touch with the Høstfest organizers for the latest news.



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia. Copyright free.

Abide With Me

Quarterly Sifferskrift

4	3-3	3	2	1-15-5	6	5	5	4	3-3-3-3
-	1-1	7	7	1-11-1	1	7	1	2	1-1-1-1
4	A -bide	with	me,	fast	falls	the	e -	ven	tide;
	55-	5	4	3-31-1	1	5	5	5	5-5-5-5
	1-1	5	5	6-63-3	4	5	6	7	1-1-1-1

Music:
 William Henry Monk
 (1823-1889)
Text:
 Henry Francis Lyte
 (1793-1847)
Sifferskrift:
 K. Pedersen, 2007

3-3	4	5	6-6	5-54	2	3	4+	5-5-5-5
1-1	1	1	1-1	1-11	2	1	1	7-7-7-7
The dark-ness	deep -	ens,	Lord,	with	me	a -	bide;	
5-5	4	3	4-4	3-36	5	5	1	2-2-2-2
1-7	6	5	4-4	1-12	7	1	6	5-5-5-5

3-3	3	2	1-1	5-5	5	4	4	3	2-2-2-2
1-1	7	7	1-1	1-1	1	1	1+	1+	2-2-2-2
When oth - er	help -	ers	fail	and	com -	forts	flee,		
3-4	5	4	3-3	1-7	6	6	6	5	4-4-4-4
1-1	5	5	6-6	3-3	4	5	6	6	2-2-2-2

2-2	3	4	3	2	1	4	3-3	2-2	1-1-1-1
7-7	1	7	1	7	1	2	1-1	7-7	1-1-1-1
Help of the	help -	less,	O	a -	bide	with	me.		
5-5	5	5	5	5	3	6	5-5-5	4	3-3-3-3
4-4	3	2	1	5	6	4	5-5	5-5	1-1-1-1



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