

# Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet

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



Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet | Tel: +1 952-934-4535 | E-mail: enstrengb@gmail.com | Web: www.psalmodikon.com

## Notes from MUSIC-ON-A-STRING

Beatrice Hole

We are honored that the Schubert Club of St. Paul has recognized and invited the psalmodikon to participate in their upcoming exhibit featuring the Nordic Bowed String instruments. We have spent many hours these days searching and gathering items suitable for the display.

We have a good start into the new year and are looking forward to spring. Along with 2018 it brings a reminder to look at your address label and see if your membership dues are current. The Newsletter fund is running on a very low budget at the moment and yet I do not want to raise the Membership fees.

I really appreciate hearing from all of you along with your little notes of encouragement. I would like to thank each of you personally but saving on the postage.

Please contact us in regards to getting together for our annual meeting. It would be fun to visit again and make music.

Looking forward to hearing from you all! Take care until next time...

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



## PSALMODIKONS DISPLAYED AT SCHUBERT CLUB

Beatrice Hole

The [Schubert Club](#) located in St. Paul, Minnesota has invited the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet to create an exhibit in their Museum featuring Nordic Bowed String instruments – the Hardingfele, the Nyckelharpa, and the Psalmodikon. The exhibit is expected to open in late April and will be open to the public for about 24 months.

The photograph (above right) features two psalmodikons, with a transposition stick, hand crafted by Floyd Foslien of Hudson, Wisconsin. They will be located in the “hands-on” area of the exhibit at the Schubert Club Museum for the purpose of children and adults to gain understanding of how fretting a string changes the pitch, and the differences in the sound when bowing, plucking, or strumming the single string on different size instruments.



There is also a glass case, in the psalmodikon area, to display a very old psalmodikon, transposition sticks and a bow. It will also include documentation with photos, history, and Sifferskrift music of this near-forgotten psalmodikon.

Established in 1882, the [Schubert Club](#) is a non-profit and one of the oldest existing arts organizations in the country. It grew out of an informal group of music enthusiasts and has had a significant impact on the cultural life of St. Paul, Minnesota. They are known for supporting music education and hosting concerts featuring well-respected local, national, and international musicians. They promote the art of music, particularly recital music, through performance, series of concerts and education and museum programs – and to maintain a high standard of excellence.

The museum is located on the second floor of St. Paul’s iconic Landmark Center at 75 W. 5th Street. It offers visitors a reflection of the joys in music-

making through the centuries, from a massive “cyclone” sculpture of instruments through the gallery of historic keyboards, to the impressive collection of correspondence from famous composers. The museum opens a window to the inspiring role of music in people’s lives.

Additionally, visitors can step back in time and hear music boxes and phonographs dating back to 1900. Next they can play and compare the mechanics of several string or keyboard instruments spanning from four different centuries. Innovation Station is the last stop where visitors can experiment making music on these unique instruments, created from items you would never expect!



# In Memorium

## LINDA DALRYMPLE

Jean Akre

Linda Dalrymple, at the age of 77, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her husband, Jim, their three children and grandchildren on 16 January 2018. Linda lived in Portland all her life. She worked as a registered nurse (RN) until 2000. After retirement, Linda was active in many organizations and loved to volunteer. She also enjoyed sewing and in the last few years made many quilts.

Linda and Jim enjoyed playing their psalmodikons along with several other

players at numerous venues in their area.

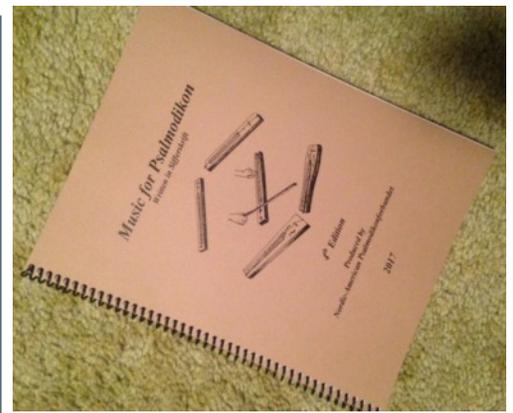
As active members of the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet for many years, the Dalrymples and the Akres hosted the Psalmodikon Annual Meeting in Portland in 2004.

They also made many trips to Minnesota to play their psalmodikons. In 2005, they joined Floyd Foslien, Beatrice Hole, and Jean Akre for a psalmodikon meeting in Sweden.

Linda will be greatly missed by all. 



Pictured (l-r): Jean Akre, Linda & Jim Dalrymple, Beatrice Hole, Rick Swee, Molly Beiningen.



## Songbook Gets Fourth Printing

Since the writing of the last Newsletter, there has been the printing of the **Fourth** Edition of the Psalmodikon Songbook.

The only change made was the *color* of the book cover that is different than the printing of the Third Edition in 2014.

As many of you know, Kathy Pederson has transposed all the music for psalmodikon into the Sifferskrift method for playing the songs suitable for the psalmodikon. Over the past years she has transposed additional songs that are not available in the Sifferskrift Songbooks.

You will find in this issue of the Newsletter a listing of those songs and they are available to anyone that requests a copy.

Contact Kathy at: [kpeder@frontier.com](mailto:kpeder@frontier.com). 

### NEXT ANNUAL

### PSALMODIKON MEETING?

Ruth Gibson has offered to host the Annual Meeting in 2018.

**PLEASE** contact us to express the best month for you to attend.

Summer or Autumn?

We are open to new ideas.

Last year's meeting was cancelled due to lack of interest. Let that not happen again.



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# A BELOVED CHILD HAS MANY NAMES

## Virsikannel reintroduced to Finnish-America

James Kurtti — Director of Finnish American Heritage Center

From Sweden the use of the psalmodikon spread to Finland, Norway, and the Baltic states. Likewise, the great Swedish, Norwegian, and consequent Finnish migration four decades later brought the instrument to North America's shores.

It is not known who may have brought the psalmodikon to Finland or gave it the name *virsikannel*, *virsikantele*, or simply *kantele*, but there too it was a bridge to learning standardized tune settings to hymns. In some instances, it was the hymn's composer who would introduce his hymn to the congregants.

As quickly as the congregation learned the hymn, the accompanying *virsikannel* was drowned out — the intended result.

The popularity of the *virsikannel* lasted through the end of the 19th century, although in many remote rural areas it lasted much longer. Today most Finnish *virsikannels* are found in attics, museums and antique shops, while there have been small resurgences of the instrument in both Norway and Sweden.

In North America, immigrant communities, in particular, the Norwegians brought, built and played the *virsikannel/psalmodikon* ensembles, donning their national costumes, performed in churches and Nordic events.

The epicenter of psalmodikon activity emanates from the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet. Founder and present president Beatrice Hole, of Eden Prairie, Minne-

sota, a self-taught psalmodikon player, has nearly single-handedly reintroduced the psalmodikon to the North American Nordic community.

In January 2017 the instrument was also reconnected to the Finnish-American community, when Hole and instrument maker Floyd Foslien, conducted a three-day psalmodikon building and playing workshop during the Heikinpaiva 2017 (Hancock, Michigan). A dozen or so students of the class each built their own *psalmodikon/virskikannel*. The local *kantele* ensemble joined in the playing workshop. As things go in small communities, the word got out. Within the next few months local people were bringing their *virsikannel* they had in their attic to the [Finnish American Heritage Center](#).



## A Transitional Tool in the New World

James Kurtti

The renewed interest also brought to the surface information regarding *virsikannel* usage and making in the region, earlier unknown and recorded virtually just before it was too late. Case in point is the late Effie Simonson Hallstrom, who passed away 31 December 2017. She recalled her brother Walfred Simonson making the instruments in the 1930s. "We called them 'kantele'," Effie remembered, "and we used them to learn new hymns." Effie was a faithful member of the Old Apostolic Lutheran Church, a church that discourages the use of any musical instrument, but through interviews with Effie and

other church members it became clear that the *virsikannel*, which all referred to as a *kantele*, was used in home gatherings as a tool to transition from the Old World hymns

sung in Finnish, to American hymns sung in English. "The kantele helped us to learn the tunes, and after that we just didn't use them anymore", one church member explained.

"We played the kantele on a table and used a bow. Walfred used to go to the Dover Music Store in town to buy catgut," Lempi Hanson (sister of Effie) recalled. "He used the bow like a saw." The sisters also recalled the *kantele/virskikannel* was only used for religious music. Other *virsikannel* makers within the church were Walfred Simonson's brother Charlie and Arnold Ruonavaara, in Hancock, Michigan.



Above: Effie Simonson Hallstrom, age 101.

# Psalmodikon Music – February 2017

**Bold** = available in one-part version  
*Italics* = arranged but not typed  
Note: Christmas not included

Solo, duet, trio and quartet versions of some of this music in addition to Christmas music are available at [kpeder@frontier.com](mailto:kpeder@frontier.com)

*Nearer, My God to Thee*

**Abide with Me**

*Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*

**Aftensolen Smiler**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

*All Hail the Power*

**How Great Thou Art**

**Amazing Grace**

Hurra for Deg

**America**

**Hymn to Norway**

**America the Beautiful**

I have a Friend

**Aura Lee**

**I have Decided**

**Battle Hymn of the Republic**

**I Know that My Redeemer Lives**

**Be Present at Out Table**

**I Love to Tell the Story**

**Beautiful Dreamer**

**I Love You Truly**

**Beautiful Savior**

**In Heaven Above**

**Behold a Host**

**In Heavenly Love Abiding**

**Beneath the Cross of Jesus**

**In the Garden**

Beyond the Sunset

**Ja, Vi Elsker**

*Blessing and Honor*

**Jesus din søte forenging å smake**

**Blest Be the Tie that Binds**

**Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross**

**Breathe on Me Breath of God**

**Jesus Paid it All**

**Build on a Rock**

**Jesus Lover of my Soul**

**Children of the Heavenly Father**

**Jesus Loves Me**

**The Church's One Foundation**

**Jesus Paid it All**

*Come Thou Almighty King*

**Jesus Priceless Treasure**

**Danny Boy**

**Jesus Shall Reign**

**Day by Day**

**Joyful, Joyful (Ode to Joy)**

**De Nære Ting**

**Just a Closer Walk with Thee**

**Der er et yngdigt land**

**Just as I Am**

**Det går a festtog gjennom landet**

**Kan du Glemme Gamle Norge?**

**Du Gamle Du Fria**

La Oss Leve

Din Klara Sol

Last og Sunden, Fortast og Frelst

**Earth and All Stars**

*Lead On, O King Eternal*

**Edelweiss**

**Lefse Song**

**Eternal Father**

**Let Me Call You Sweetheart**

**An Evening Prayer**

**Little Brown Church**

**Faith of Our Fathers**

**The Lord is in His Holy Temple**

**God Himself is Present**

**Lord, Listen to Your Children**

**God of our Fathers**

The Lord's Prayer

**Goin' Home**

**Love Me Tender**

**Happy Birthday**

**Låden**

**Have Thine Own Way**

**A Mighty Fortress**

He the Pearly Gates Shall Open

Minnesota Song

Hela världen fröjdes Herran

**My Faith Looks Up to Thee**

**Herre Gud, Ditt Dyre Navn**

*My God, How Wonderful Thou Art*

**Hils fra Mig Derhjemme**

**My Jesus, I Love Thee**

Hjälp oss acceptera andra

**My Wild Irish Rose**

**Nidelven**

**Norge, Mitt Norge**

**Norwegian Soul**

**Now Thank We All Our God**

**Now the Day is Over**

Nu är nöjd och glader

*O God Our Help in Ages Past*

O Sälla Land

*O Take My Hand, Dear Father*

*O Worship the King*

**Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing**

**Oh, How Deep and Wide Finns djup**

**The Old Rugged Cross**

**On My Heart Imprint Thine Image**

*On Our Way, Rejoicing*

**Paul's Chickens**

**Praise and Thanksgiving**

*Praise to the Lord*

**Praise Ye the Father**

Prayer is the Heart's Desire

**Psalmodikonetyd**

**Psalmodikonvalsen**

**Red River Valley**

**Rock of Ages**

**Savior, Like a Shepherd**

**Shall We Gather at the River**

Slumrande Toner

**Softly and Tenderly**

Sommarkung

**Song of Peace**

**Star Spangled Banner**

*Sun of My Soul*

*Take my Life and Let it Be*

**Tell Me Why**

**This is my Father's world**

This Little Light of Mine

*Thy Word, O Lord, Like Gentle Dew*

**Twinkle, Twinkle**

**Vesterheim Waltz**

**Vuggevisse**

**We Give Thee But Thine Own**

**Were You There?**

**What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

**You Are My Sunshine**





## ITEMS FOR SALE

### PSALMODIKON SONGBOOK (revised edition)

written in *Sifferskrift* and 4-part harmony for psalmodikons

\$15.00 ea. + \$7.20 pstg

Send orders to: **Beatrice Hole**

### PSALMODIKON QUARTET CD

\$15.00 pp

Send orders to: **Singsaas Lutheran Church**

Attn: Music CDs

P. O. Box 87, Hendricks, MN 56136

<http://www.countrychurchmusic.com/>

## PSALMODIKON FOR SALE

(#65 made by Floyd Foslien)

Psalmodikon Songbook and CD. \$200.00.

Contact: Myron Wilcox (608) 276-7609

325 S. Yellowstone Dr. #328

Madison, WI 53705

## PSALMODIKON CASES

2 Softside cases with zipper enclosure; 1 Hardside case suitable for a small Psalmodikon or Dulcimer. Slightly used. Make offer.

Contact Beatrice Hole.

## *Greetings from Readers*

Dear Beatrice:

.....You and the rest of the newsletter staff do a fine job and I look forward to each issue. Enclosed please find a check – plus a very little extra – for renewing my membership.

— David M. Seymour, Newberry, South Carolina

Hello, Beatrice

Many thanks for the Christmas greetings! It's always interesting to take part in your Psalmodikon paper. I was glad to read about the Tandem Psalmodikon. Gunilla and I still use it. In November we played on it in a church in the town of Hallsberg, 30 kilometers from here.



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The *Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet Newsletter* is published in the Spring, Summer, and Autumn. 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, annual fee for the Psalmodikon Web Site, and 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  
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We wish you Merry Christmas GOD JUL!

— Gunilla och Lars-Eric Lauenstein

Thank you, Beatrice, for the nice article in the last magazine about my dad. I was so surprised when I saw it. I feel that my dad was an expert on the psalmodikon and he sure could make beautiful music with that one string. I note that I spell the *psalmodicon* with a "c" and you use a "k". I was so proud of your article that I shared it with my cousins, too. That was very kind of you.

Happy Holidays to you.

— Solveig

Thank you Beatrice. I have sent your newsletter on to a friend in Kalix, Lappland, in Sweden, who also plays psalmodikon. I don't know whether he ever signed up with you to receive the newsletters regularly, but he did enjoy the ones I sent him. Just to let you know that you have a global readership!

Warm holiday hugs,

— Ginny Lee

# NEWS FROM HANCOCK, MICHIGAN

**Below:** Melvin Kangas, kantele player, donates several instruments to the Finnish American Heritage Center.



It was one year ago in January that Floyd Foslien and Beatrice Hole were “Artists in Residence” at the Finnish American Heritage Center in Hancock, Michigan for their Heikinpaiva Mid-Winter Festival. They held a building class as well as teaching the students how to play their Virsikannel, as the instrument is called in Finland.

I recently was in contact with James N. Kurtti, Director of the Center, and he informed me that shortly after our visit, a man came in with a Virsikannel that belonged to his family, and his wife remembers their family had one as well. In early summer a local man donated two, and yet again, another man donated one to the Heritage Center. They now have five older virsikannel and two made during the workshop at the Heritage Center. 

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