

NORDIC AMERICAN PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET

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ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

Mark your calendars now to reserve the date of September 19th for the 2nd annual meeting of Psalmodikonforbundet. It will be held in Granite Falls, MN. It is hoped that many will be able to attend and there is a possibility that we will have visitors from Sweden attending our meeting. Your input is needed to help plan this year's events- **let Beatrice know what you would like to do, see and experience.** A Saturday evening dinner and program is a possibility ; workshops and "jam sessions" and perhaps playing at Sunday morning worship services!

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YEAR END MUSINGS BY BEATRICE HOLE

The Psalmodikon and I have wound through a whirlwind finish of a very busy 1997.

What a terrific year it has been with all the places we have given programs and the wonderful people I have met. The interest continues to grow and so I am also kept very

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busy handling correspondence from all over the USA, Canada, and the Nordic Countries.

Already, many performance dates have been scheduled for

1998 with one even scheduled for the year 2001. (I guess the new violin bow I received for Christmas will get plenty of use.)

In addition to the many performances during December, the Psalmodikon and I had the honor of accompanying the Gregorian Singers, under the Direction of Monte Mason, as they sung a beautiful old Norwegian hymn during an Advent Service at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Minneapolis. Another first was when I was asked to provide Psalmodikon music for a Reviewal and Funeral service for an elderly Norwegian lady. A very fine tribute to her many years of carrying on her heritage and traditions. The visits with the young people are always so rewarding as they listen attentively to my story and then try a "hands on" attempt at playing the "one-stringer". It is so important to keep the young children interested in



Beatrice Hole & Lydia Drogemueller play the Tandem Psalmodikon at the Nordic Brunch 1997

our traditions as they are the ones who will carry them into the future.

But the highlight of the year was getting the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet organized! That was a dream come true for me and I eagerly look forward to our association for the years to come. We have had a good response with the Membership Dues and some are still coming in. If you think of someone else who would be interested in joining, it still isn't too late to send in the \$5.00 membership fee. Some folks are giving a membership as a gift. I am sure many of you are busy practicing and learning new songs. Maybe we could have a "jam session" before the next scheduled meeting.