

NORDIC AMERICAN PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET

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Notes from MUSIC-ON-A-STRING

While searching through the back copies of the Psalmodikon Newsletters, I realize that I wrote my first Newsletter in November 1996. My how time flies! Records show that I mailed the Newsletter to approximately 60 of my faithful followers and many are still on the mailing list today.

Since then I was successful in organizing the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet and with the help of all the enthusiastic members, we are doing a great job of carrying on the Psalmodikon tradition. Everyone had a fun time at our meeting in Decorah, Iowa in September. Those in attendance were from Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Many of them brought their Psalmodikons along to play and learn some more songs. I hope that next year even more members will attend. Much time and effort goes into the planning of an interesting and educational meeting.

During the business meeting it was decided that the club could donate the Psalmodikon to the Emigrant Museum in Norway. I want to thank everyone who contributed their time and gifts of money to make it possible. Expenses for the Psalmodikon were kept down as Paul Knivslund, who built the Psalmodikon charged the club for only the building materials. I volunteered my time to do the Rosemaling and while I was doing the painting—the phone rang. And here it was a call from Ruth Gibson of White Bear Lake, MN telling me she was planning a trip to Norway in September and offered to “hand carry” the Psalmodikon to the Emigrant Museum. What a welcome call that was! Not only did she save us the shipping costs but I was assured it would arrive in good shape. Ruth delivered the Psalmodikon to the Museum on September 17. All I had left to show those attending the meeting were photos and the E-mail that arrived just as I was leaving for Decorah.

The E-Mail read as follows:

“The Psalmodikon and Ruth Gibson both arrived in excellent condition

today. We took it out, checked it out, and photographed it. On behalf of the museum, I hope you will pass on my thanks to the Psalmodikonforbundet for this very fine gift. Also, please pass on my appreciation for making it and the rosemaling. It is lovely work.

Sincerely, Knut Djupedal.

*The Norwegian Emigrant Museum
Ottestad, Norway.*

Thanks to Darrell Henning and Angie Reynolds, our group had a very educational and interesting visit to the Vesterheim Museum to see the special display of Psalmodikons. We then went over to the Dayton House Restaurant for a delicious lunch of Norwegian foods.

Maybe it was the coffee pot that was on all day long with all the Scandinavian sweets, but I felt that our practice sessions went real well in that five of us felt confident enough to participate in the 5:00 p. m. Worship Service at Good Shepherd. A very proper ending to a wonderful get together for another year.

I am very excited about the possibility of the Nordiska Psalmodikonforbundet from Scandinavia wanting to come to America next summer to hold a “joint” meeting. As of now, no date has been set but we are working out the details. If this comes to be, I will need a lot of help from all of you to make this event a memorable and successful one for everyone attending!

The Spellstemna brought to a close a busy Summer of performing for the Psalmodikon and I. Now we are into the Fall gatherings and accepting invitations for the Christmas season. It is time to start practicing Christmas carols!

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving
and in the meantime, keep practicing!