

NORDIC-AMERICAN PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET

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NOTES FROM MUSIC-ON-A STRING

By Beatrice Hole

It is soon five years ago that I was invited to attend the 10th anniversary of the Nordic Psalmodikonforbundet in Ostervalva, Sweden.

What a wonderful learning experience that was! Not only to be on the soil that my ancestors stood and played the Psalmodikon but to see and hear how the Psalmodikon is still being played today. Since then I have been able to learn much of the Psalmodikon history from my new friends in Scandinavia.

It has been said, that music is the universal language and I certainly have found that to be true. Sometimes while I was there visiting we had difficulty conversing with one another but when it came time to make music we could easily follow along with each other. The following were some of our favorites:

*"Children of the Heavenly Father"
"Day By Day" "Amazing Grace" and
Elvis Presley's "Love Me Tender", which we
have now coined as the "Universal Song for
Psalmodikons".*

On September 15-16-17, we will all be able to have nearly the same experience, only this time the Scandinavian Psalmodikon players will be coming to us!

In the meantime, you should all be practicing

some songs on your Psalmodikon so that you will feel comfortable entertaining our guests! Let me know if you need more copies of the songs that have appeared in past issues of the Psalmodikon Newsletters.

Psalmodikonforbundet 2000 is the meeting you will not want to miss.

The Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet, organized in 1995 by Beatrice Hole of Eden Prairie, MN, is a group of Psalmodikon enthusiasts who are interested in keeping the Psalmodikon traditions alive.

The group meets once a year. The first meeting of organization was on September 12, 1997 at the Norwegian Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. The second annual meeting was held at Granite Falls, MN on September 19, 1998, hosted by Eleanor Sandquist. Last fall for our third annual meeting we met on September 17-19 in Decorah, IA, hosted by Barbara and Donald Berg.

Each year there have been more members attending, and the meetings and workshops have become more involved and interesting.

This year of 2000 will bring a new level of interest to the annual meeting in that the **Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet** will host the **Nordic Psalmodikonforbundet of Norway/Sweden** for a "joint" meeting to be held the