



**VOLUME 102, NO. 2**

**DECORAH, IA**

**Mar.-Apr. 2012**



The above shows a remarkable mixed mass chorus of 2400 voices! in Paris on 8 June 1794, at the Festival of the Cult of the Supreme Being. Note director on pedestal near center? This painting is by Pierre-Antoine Demachy (1723-1807). See the article on page 13 by Dr. Alf Lunder Knudsen of the PCNSA.

#### **From the President**

Dear Singer-Brothers & Ladies,

By the time these few lines are read Sangerfest will be right around the corner. How fortunate we are to still be able to come together in song after all these years. We know that unfortunately some of you, due to illness or other circumstances, will not be able to attend and to that we offer our best and sincere wishes. For all of you that are coming on Thursday,

please be aware that you may not be able to get into your rooms immediately. However, Pheasant Run has assured me that they will place people as quickly as possible.

Singers, please be advised that the Mass Chorus Rehearsal begins at 1:30 p.m. in the Mega Center, which is located at the East End of Pheasant Run.

For those of you coming from the  
(continued on page 3)

**Note change of Grand Concert location below (in blue font)****59<sup>th</sup> Sangerfest 2012 Events Schedule**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Thursday- June 14, 2012</b>		
	Welcome- <i>Velkommen</i>	
9:00 am	Registration and Hospitality "coffee and"	Solarium just off from lobby
1:30 pm	Mass Chorus Rehearsals	Mega Center
3:30 pm	Individual Chorus Rehearsals	Mega Center
6:00 pm	Memorial Service	St. Charles Ballroom
7:00 pm	Parade of Choruses	St. Charles Ballroom
8:00 pm	Sit-down Dinner & Afterglow Enjoy the traditional music of Tim Eischen and the Chicago <i>Spelmans Lag</i>	St. Charles Ballroom
<b>Friday- June 15, 2012</b>		
9:00 am	Directors' Breakfast	Marsalis Ballroom 1
9:00 am	Vice Presidents' Meeting	Marsalis Ballroom 2
9:00 am	Ladies- Viking Ship Shopping and Lunch in Geneva. A 10 min. bus ride.	meet in Lobby
10:00 am	Veterans' Brunch	New Orleans Ballroom
11:00 am	Corresponding Secretaries	Marsalis Ballroom 2
1:30 pm	Mass Chorus Rehearsal	Mega Center
5:30 pm	Social Hour	St. Charles Ballroom
6:00 pm	Medal Ceremony	St. Charles Ballroom
7:00 pm	Banquet Dance to the music of the Dave Kyrk Band Featuring a traditional dance performance by <i>Leikarringen "Heimhug"</i>	St. Charles Ballroom
<b>Saturday- June 16, 2012</b>		
9:00 am	NSAA Breakfast & Business Meeting	St. Charles Ballroom
11:30 am	Ladies Luncheon	New Orleans Ballroom
1:30 pm	Mass Chorus Rehearsal with DuPage Symphony	Mega Center
6:00 pm	Award Pictures & Mass Chorus Photo	Mega Center
7:00 pm	Grand Concert	<a href="#">Mega Center</a>
9:00 pm	Light Meal & Afterglow	St. Charles Ballroom

*Meal and menu details are found on pages 22-23 of your Program Booklet*

(continued from page 1)

West on Route 64, as you pass the Charlestown Mall you will be coming to KAUTZ RD. Go past KAUTZ RD to the next light, which is Pheasant Run Drive; turn right (South); it is much safer and easier.

The Singers' attire for the Banquet on Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, will be our White Sangerfest coat with Black Pants and Black Bow Tie. This evening begins with our Medals Ceremony.

If you have any questions or problems at Sangerfest, come to me and I will do my best to help you. For anything you wish to discuss prior to Sangerfest, please call me at 630-830-2971.

We look forward to meeting and greeting all of you in a very short time. Have an uneventful and very safe trip to Pheasant Run.

Almost forgot. For those of you coming from the East, Pheasant Run is located on Route 64, 3 miles west of Route 59 just past DuPage County Airport; then turn left (south) on Pheasant Run Drive. The first building you will see will be the Mega Center.

I remain your Singer-Brother,



Roger Stavnem, Chairman 2012

**Individual Chorus Rehearsals**

Thursday afternoon, ca. 3:30 p.m.  
Exact times will be in program book.

**Mega Center**

1. Luren Singing Society, Decorah
2. Edvard Grieg Chorus, Madison
3. Norwegian Glee Club, Mpls.

**St. Charles Ballroom**

4. Grieg Male Chorus, Canton
5. Minnehaha Mandskor, Sioux Falls
6. Nordic Male Chorus, Sioux City
7. Norse Glee Club, Sioux Falls
8. Sioux Valley Singers
9. Veterans Chorus

**Preservation Hall A**

10. Harmony Singing Society, Rockford
11. Normennenes Singing Society
12. Bjornson Male Chorus

Ω

**MINNEHAHA MANDSKOR**

**Sioux Falls SD**

We must have had winter, because we enjoyed Kirk Preheim's spring fish feed. Kirk and Anita went down to New Orleans and brought back about 2½ tons of seafood. They cooked up a "seafood bash" that is out of this world, crawfish, catfish, shrimp, oysters, cajon vegetables and more. What a feast! We all enjoyed.

Mandskor was privileged to be part of the funeral service for Winston Hill, who died Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>. "Winnie" was born Feb. 27, 1920 to Charles and Susie (Shankland) Hill in Harrisburg SD, where he grew up and graduated from Harrisburg High School in 1937.

On Sept. 9, 1941 he married Olive Bellach, who died in Oct. 1986. He married Gladys Kuhns Dec. 29, 1993, who died in Feb. 2008.

Winston served in the US Army in World War II, was awarded two Purple Hearts and was discharged in 1945.

(continued on page 5)

**SANGER-HILSEN**  
**("SINGERS GREETING")**

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**DEADLINE FOR  
 MAY-JUNE ISSUE  
 May 30, 2012**

He was predeceased by his two wives, his parents and one brother, Chester of Worthing SD.



Winston Hill

He is survived by son David (wife Marlys), two grandsons, two great grandsons, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held March 5<sup>th</sup> at First Congregational Church, Sioux Falls, with Mandskor providing special music.

Don Cooper and Rex Livermore will be our chefs this year for The Gourmet Guys event at the Active Generation Center. I am not sure of their delicacy, but I am sure it will be scrumptious! Thirty other chefs will have booths at the event. So many good tastes!

Besides having joint rehearsals with other Sioux Valley Choruses, Mandskor has been invited to sing a concert at Dow Rummel Village on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

In the meantime, Mandskor is making plans for a Dad's Belgian Waffle Feed that we will host at the Active Generation Center on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Our snow birds will be back, and we are pretty sure there won't be a snow storm to worry about!

Well, guess what? Kirk has another "Norwegian Delicacy." We will be having a booth at the Sioux Empire Fair in Sioux Falls – Aug. 4-12 – and we will be serving chislic –(grilled or deep fat fried lamb cubes on a stick).

It will be a challenge – but we are looking forward to the camaraderie and financial benefits of the event.

Hope all of you are working on the Sangerfest program. We look forward to seeing and enjoying time with you in St. Charles in June.

Respectfully,



Bob Stenberg,, Corr. Sec.

### **BJORNSON MALE CHORUS**

#### **Chicago IL**

Dear Singer Brothers,

Greetings! This is my first time out this year. Due to some personal setbacks I'm happy to offer the latest goings-on with our chorus.

Our holiday in Dec. 2011 was most satisfying as the chorus did appear at our usual Christmas gatherings. The mild winter we had sure made traveling "a piece of cake." At each concert we had 99% of singers on the line. Even the audiences were larger.

Our last program was in Chicago at *Minnekirken*, always our final gig for the year. The fine choirs, soloists, the Nordic Ladies, and Bjornson make up the music fare for the service. The fellowship and refreshments are a perfect ending we always look forward to as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior.

After the Holidays Bjornson's first rehearsal was on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, to begin our journey to present a successful June 2012 Sangerfest. Our Roger Stavnem is "head honcho" with his side-kick Phil Holmes, doing the things needed to reach the goal in June.



Our first Lenten program was on March 28<sup>th</sup> in Edison Park Lutheran Church. The acoustics in this church are fantastic, a wonderful place to sing. Fortunately the congregation liked it too!

The ladies of the church have really spoiled us these many years. The endless bowls of home-made soup they serve us give us the energy we need to sing our best. Yeah, sure now!

The next date was March 30<sup>th</sup> at "The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Festival of Song" at the Estonia House in Lincolnshire IL, where Normennes Singing Society hang their hats for rehearsals. They have been host chorus for this affair since its inception.

This year there were eight choruses performing two songs each. These were Waukegan Swedish Glee Club, Elmhurst Männerchor, Chicago Swedish Male Chorus, Chicago Swedish Glee Club, The Sibelius Male Chorus of Chicago, Chicago Latvian Men's Choir, Bjornson and Normennes.

All the singers then joined en masse to sing six of our favorite tunes to the enjoyment of our ever loving ladies – who said hostages?

Anyhow, coffee and goodies were served, which capped off another night of doing what we like to do.

*Leve Sangen,*



George Michals, Corr. Sec.

## NORDIC MALE CHORUS

### Sioux City IA

All activity of the Chorus has been centered on preparation for Sangerfest 2012. Monday rehearsals have reviewed familiar repertoire while meantime woodshedding the third of the Grand Concert selections that are new to the members.

Director Chuck Schuett has given additional attention to songs like "We Love the Fair Land," "Come, Let Us Sing," *Kaares Sang*, and *Fader I Himlen*."

Extra help on the music will come with combined rehearsals of the Sioux Valley Singers Association. On March 26<sup>th</sup>, the Nordics journeyed to Canton, are hosting the merged group on April 16<sup>th</sup>, and then travel to Sioux Falls on May 14<sup>th</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Time will move quickly before the June 14-16 singing festival.



Bob Hansen, Corr. Sec.

## NORWEGIAN GLEE CLUB

### Minneapolis MN

As usual, our March 24<sup>th</sup> lutefisk dinners were sold out. The continued support of our Spring and Fall events is recognition of the dedicated efforts of our members, the Auxiliary, and many others. The results sustain the continued activities and performances of a vibrant (and mature) Glee Club. Two of our "regulars" told me that the two dates of our dinners are the first dates they mark on their new

calendars each year. Those kinds of remarks help to make up for the aches and pains many of us feel on the Sunday after the dinners.

There were strong links to these dinners for a former singer and special friend to all of us, Chris Feste, who died in February, three weeks before he would have celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Only three or four years ago you would have seen Chris in the kitchen cutting up the cod fillets for Einar Johanson and his crew to change into wonderful lutefisk.

This past fall Chris and wife Ruth were at one of our front tables as diners. Everyone wanted to stop and visit with Chris and Ruth, which created a lot of congestion around their table. He remained quite active until his last weeks. He was born in Feste, Norway, and is survived by his wife of 70 years, children: Karen Feste, Dale Feste, Barbara Lasee, four grandchildren and one great grandson.

The Memorial Service at Augustana Home Chapel was followed by many stories by family members and friends that painted the picture of this “man of all seasons.” Chris was a master carpenter, a skilled fisherman, the head of a wonderful family, and friend to many. He was well known for his humor and wisdom. He had a life well lived. We shall miss him, but not forget him.

We were glad to see Lee Randall back in his usual seat at practice after the healing of some broken bones he received as a result of a bad fall. We need all of our singers to stay well as we approach our Spring concert and then the Sangerfest.

We learned that singer Ted Anderson had lost his beloved wife Karen after a lengthy illness. A

memorial service is scheduled for later. Ted has been a very special care-giver; We share his sorrow. He belongs to both the Norwegian Glee Club and the Centennial Singers. Both choruses were to sing at her Memorial Service.

As all of us become more chronologically gifted, we are grateful for our two “care” singers, Phil Heide and Duane Olson, who keep track of and communicate with us, in regard to those who might be ailing (or have fallen down steps).

President Nelson has finalized all the details regarding our Sangerfest trip. Our bus will make interesting stops both going to and coming from Pheasant Run. I think he plans that we will pause in each town along the way, sing a couple songs, and pass the hat. Sounds like a good program.

Can you believe this weather? The mailman came into our office one day wearing shorts, golf courses are open, plants are popping out of the ground, and ice-out on our lakes will be weeks early. I have even packed away my long-johns, setting a new record.

For a smile: One Sunday morning, a mother went in to wake her son and tell him it was time to get ready for church, to which he replied, “I’m not going.” “Why not?” she asked. “I’ll give you two good reasons,” he said. “One, they don’t like me, and two, I don’t like them.” His mother replied, “I’ll give you two good reasons why you SHOULD go to church: One, you are 59 years old, and two, you’re the pastor.”

Charles Engh, Corr. Sec.

**Robert E. Melstrom**

was born March 13, 1924 to Nels and Bertha (Budjenska) Melstrom near Prescott WI. He was introduced to a

lifelong love of music when his family was given a pump organ. He played piano in the family church where one of the church ladies offered to pay for lessons for him.

After graduating from Prescott High School in 1942, he worked at the VA Hospital in Minneapolis until he enlisted in the Navy in 1943. While in service he earned a degree in Organic Chemistry with later degrees from UC Berkeley in Criminology, Toxicology and Police Laboratory Science.

He spent 10 years in Iowa selling pharmaceuticals, then worked for 23 years at Bachman's in Minneapolis.

Wherever a piano was available he continued to play for all occasions. He was accompanist for Norwegian Glee Club for over 23 years, retiring in '95.

Bob slept away March 10<sup>th</sup>. Grave-side services were held March 29<sup>th</sup> at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Don Berg

**NORMENNENES SINGING SOCIETY  
Chicago IL**

On Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Festival of Song. At this event area ethnic choruses are invited to participate, with each chorus performing two selections of their choice, and join in the mass chorus, in which all choruses join in singing six songs.

The participation of the singers surpassed our expectations, with eight chorus performing individually and a total of 114 singers present. Also the total attendance was nearly 250, which was a "full house" at the Estonian House in Lincolnshire.

Whille all the choruses performed well, the highlight of the evening was

the mass chorus. The directing was shared by the directors of all the choruses.

The mass chorus songs were: Let There Be Music, Stout-hearted Men, Sanctus, Dear Land of Home, You'll Never Walk Alone, and God Bless America. Individual choruses represented included four Swedish, one German, one Latvian, one Finnish-Estonian, and Bjornson and Normennenes representing the Norse. A splendid coffee social ended a wonderful evening of socializing and singing. Hazel Peterson and Janet Wold with their committee did a great job hosting this event.

Preparations are underway for our annual spring concert on Apr. 28<sup>th</sup>

Also, our concern and prayers are with singer Bill Johnson, who is recovering from a recent stroke.

Excitement is building toward our involvement in Sangerfest 2012, always a memorable event!

See you in St. Charles.



Thor Fjell, Normennenes President

**EDVARD GRIEG CHORUS  
Madison, WI**

March was a quiet month for the Chorus in terms of scheduled performances. This allowed us time to concentrate on practicing the songs we will be singing for Sangerfest 2012. April and May promise to be busy, however, as we will be performing at least four concerts



while continuing our Sangerfest preparations.

On Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Chorus will participate in a joint concert with the Friesland Men's Chorus at the City Auditorium in Waupun, Wisconsin. The 50-member Friesland Men's Chorus sings gospel, familiar hymns and patriotic music. Our joint concert has been aptly named "From Gospel to Grieg." Then on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, we will join the Capitol Chordsmen for a joint concert at the Middleton Performing Arts Center. The Chordsmen is the barbershop group featured at Sangerfest 2010's Grand Banquet.

In May, of course, we will focus on our participation in Stoughton's annual *Syttende Mai* celebration. *Syttende Mai* draws a large number of guests from all over Wisconsin, with many wearing their colorful costumes. Visitors enjoy sampling Norwegian delicacies and shopping for a wide variety of traditional arts and crafts. On Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, we will perform a noon concert at the Stoughton Opera House before we join the crowd enjoying the afternoon parade. On Sunday we will be participating in *Syttende Mai* morning services at Christ Lutheran Church in Stoughton.

In other Chorus news, several of our singers from Stoughton recently participated in a fundraiser for Stoughton Hospital. As part of the activities, a "Dancing with the Stars" competition was held. Chorus Treasurer, Norm Sime and his wife Verjean dazzled the crowd with their fancy footwork and won not one but both the Judge's Choice and People's Choice trophies! Norm and Verjean collected \$5,000 in pledges from

family and friends, and the fundraising event raised a total of \$39,000 for Stoughton Hospital. Congratulations to Norm and Verjean!



Dick Johnston, Corr. Sec.

## LUREN SINGING SOCIETY

### Decorah IA

We did not get stormed out of our concert at St. Peter Lutheran Church, Prairie du Chien WI on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The venue was excellent, and we had a good, balanced group singing.

We'll do our joint concert with the Luther freshmen, Norsemen, Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m. Some extra boys and young men from the Decorah Middle School and High School will join us, so there should be about 200 voices for the finale pieces.

As a tune-up for Sangerfest, we will return to Our Savior's Lutheran Church in LaCrosse for Wergeland Lodge of Sons of Norway, Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. with pie and ice cream following.

The Nominating Committee has done its work, so elections will take place in mid-May with ratification in the Fall.

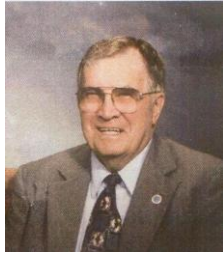
We've also chosen our delegates for the NSAA business meeting, set for Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at St. Charles.

Also, we've done sign-ups for our work shifts at the County Fair in July, just a couple weeks before Nordic Fest. Further, we accepted an invite to sing for the Sognefjordlag Stevne at Spring Grove Friday, Aug. 10, 7 p.m.

Lastly, we approved holding our concert for the Christmas Season Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at the Opera House in Elkader.

### Obituary

George A. Pfister was born Feb. 22, 1915 on the family farm, rural Decorah. He attended rural school and graduated from Decorah High School in 1932 and Luther College in 1936. He toured Norway with the LC Band in 1936 under Dr. Sperati, after which he taught high school math and science classes in North Dakota and Iowa.



George Pfister

George entered the Army in 1941, served in the South Pacific, and was commissioned in 1943 and discharged in 1945. While in service he met and married Anna Cunningham, a nurse, with whom he had four children, all of whom graduated from Luther.

They returned to the family farm and George served in various civic and educational ventures. He sang second tenor in the Luren Singers for many years.

George died March 4<sup>th</sup> at Aase Haugen Home, Decorah. He was preceded by his parents, wife Anna in 2008, one sister and three brothers.

He is survived by four children, a sister, and one brother Gordon – also a former Luren member.

A memorial service for George was held March 26<sup>th</sup> in Decorah.

**Bill Fried** became a member of Luren after invitations from fellow

singers in the Spring Grove area. He was born in Marshall MN, and has lived and worked in Moorhead and Spring Grove as a teacher of speech, theater and English. He has appeared in many roles at *Ye Olde Opera House* and *New Minnowa Players* and been a long-time member of church choir.

Bill's wife Karen is President of the Sons of Norway Lodge in Spring Grove. They have two children: Chris and Kjersti.

Bill loves to sing and currently sings First Bass.

**Larry Landsgaard** still lives on the farm near Gunder, south of Postville. He prefers to sing Second Bass, which he has done in various groups including a quartet and a Barbershop Chorus at Elkader. His name reveals a strong Norwegian heritage, so he thoroughly enjoys Luren. "It's' what I want." Larry is single.



Don Berg, Corr. Sec.

### NORSE GLEE CLUB Sioux Falls SD

March saw our music folders become complete with SangerFest music for both our individual chorus presentations and the Grand Concert.

For six of these eight weeks we practiced as our chorus alone, but for two rehearsals we joined at Canton, SD and Sioux City, IA with the other three choruses comprising the Sioux Valley Singers for joint rehearsals.

The richness of the sound in the larger groups gets your attention, and gives you a sense that some progress is seriously being made.

On Saturday April 28, The Glee Club will again perform the National Anthem at the season's final home game for the Augustana College's men's baseball team. This has become an enjoyable tradition for us, and our work seems well appreciated by the fans and the teams.

Our May/June future has us planning to perform at a *Syttende Mai* dinner celebration here in Sioux Falls, supporting a worship service at St Dysmas Chapel at the state penitentiary, as well as continuing Sangerfest preparations.

One final note to be shared. We experienced the loss of a long-time member. In March, at age 90, Elmer L. Hovland (1921-2012), a 40-year member of the Bass section passed away. Over those years he had been an active supporter of all our activities, of late however, less so because of his infirmities. He is being warmly remembered by those who knew him.



Gail Kristensen, Corr. Sec.

**From Veterans Chorus Director**

Greetings to all of you veteran singers! With Sangerfest 2012 fast approaching, I hope to see a lot of you there and ready to sing. I would like to remind you to especially practice our Veterans Chorus selections, "Gud Signe Norigs Land" and "With a Voice of Singing" so that we can do

our best at the Parade of Choruses concert on Thursday evening. Let's have fun, have an enjoyable time and have a great Sangerfest!

Bernie Gluth, Veterans Chorus Dir.

**GRIEG MALE CHORUS**

**Canton SD**

The Grieg Male Chorus of Canton began regular weekly rehearsals the first Monday in February. After turning in music from our fall and Christmas season, and receiving music for upcoming events, director Lane Karli took a few moments for each member to tell "what's been going on" since we were last all together. As families do, it's fun for our "chorus family" to visit and catch up after being apart for a few weeks.

In preparation for our upcoming Sangerfest in June, the four member choruses, of the Sioux Valley Singers Association, each host one joint rehearsal. The Grieg Chorus hosted this special rehearsal on March 26<sup>th</sup>. We were grateful for a good turnout of singers and unusually great weather for March.

In addition to preparing Sangerfest selections, the Grieg is preparing for three local concerts: Bethany Meadows, Brandon SD, April 23<sup>rd</sup>; Tuff Memorial Home, April 30<sup>th</sup>; and Canton Good Samaritan, May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Greetings from the members of the Grieg Male Chorus at Canton, and we look forward to joining our Brother Singers in Chicago in June.



Jerry Holter, Corr. Sec.

### Passing of a San Diego Mannskor Founder

The Norwegian American Weekly of 13 April 2012 reported the death of Bjarne O. Anthonsen on March 29. Bjarne was born in Rødøy, Helgeland, Norway. He immigrated to Canada in 1955, then to California in 1960. He was very active in the Norwegian American community. He started the San Diego chorus in 1993, which will be hosting the PCNSA Sangerfest June 21-23, 2012. He also started the Men's Fish Club Odin in Vista, CA, a second in San Diego, and a third chapter in Mesa AZ. He wrote for the Western Viking, then also for the Norwegian American Weekly.

He was a very outgoing, lovable person with a big personality, the center of attention and life of the party. He had titled himself the King of Norway, and said it with gusto! He knew how to make you feel special whenever you were around him.

Bjarne is survived by his wife Judy, two sons and four stepsons. He had several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, both here and in Norway.

### PCNSA San Diego Sangerfest June 21 – 23, 2012

By Dr. Alf Lunder Knudsen

SEATTLE – Music is in the air and 'with a song in his heart' Harry is getting a bit restless these days, after all it is getting close to *Sangerfest* and he is really looking forward to that unique gathering of singers representing various Norwegian male choruses from the West Coast of the United States.

It isn't like he hasn't been there and had that experience before.

Actually, attending and singing in the *Sangerfest* Grand Concert come second nature to Harry and the excitement is reaching a big crescendo – as he puts it “the current one is always the best one.”

No, Harry neither invented nor founded this special kind of gathering of singers.

The annual National Festivals, which took place in France in the 1790s, during the French Revolution, attracted thousands of singers to performances of huge mass choruses – *choeurs universels*. At the Paris festival, *l'Etre supreme* (The Supreme Existence), June 8, 1794, a mass mixed chorus of 2,400 voices performed.

Although on a somewhat smaller scale, Norway followed suit half a century later with The First Great *Sangerfest* (*Den Første Store Sangerfest*) on June 1, 1851 at Asker with participation of three choruses from Oslo and two from Drammen – a total of 173 singers performing under the direction of Johan Didrik Behrens, also known as the founder of Norway's first male chorus. Simultaneously Johan Gottfried Conradi arranged a *Sangerfest* in Tønsberg with participating choruses from the cities of Holmestrand, Larvik, Moss, Porsgrunn, Skien and Tønsberg.

The first Norwegian *Sangerfest* in the USA took place in Philadelphia July 31 – August 2, 1887 with 123 active singers in attendance, 43 of whom represented *Nordmændenes Sangforening* of Chicago, featuring a complete program of Norwegian songs. John W. Colberg of Chicago directed the Grand Chorus.

On August 26, 1902 The Pacific Coast Norwegian Singers Association – PCNSA (*Pacific Kystens Norske Sangerforbund*) was founded in Seattle. Already the next year 1903 the Everett Norwegian Male Chorus, which incidentally was also organized the previous year, hosted the first PCNSA *Sangerfest* on August 1, 2 and 3, in that city. In addition to the host chorus, singing societies from Portland OR, Tacoma, Ballard and Seattle, performed admirably under Director-in-Chief, the beloved Carlo A. Sperati's capable leadership.

But Harry was still nowhere to be found...

### **So who is this Harry?**

Harry Solheim is the son of Gustaf and Jenny Solheim who emigrated from Norway in 1914. Gustaf subsequently became a member of the Norwegian Male Chorus of Seattle. Born September 5, 1921 the 90-year-old Harry didn't actually come into the singers' picture until 1938 when the 17-year-old joined his father as a Seattle singer where his uncle Robert Solheim also was a member. This writer had the pleasure of sitting along side 'Gus' for a number of years during Monday night rehearsals in the 1960s.



Harry Solheim

### **Seattle Singer for 74 years – attended 58 *Sangerfester***

There was no PCNSA *Sangerfest* in 1938 and when the next one (1939) held in San Francisco came around Harry passed and actually attended his first *Sangerfest* in Tacoma in 1940, freely admitting that: "I really didn't

know my songs too well that year so I sort of faked it. ..." Things have changed over the years though. He now knows his songs very well and doesn't want or need the music when performing in concerts. Stranger yet, he actually watches the director! How do I know that? It isn't that he tells anyone; during my tenure as director of the Seattle NMC I have 'watched Harry watching me – watching Harry watching me – watching Harry watching me, etc'... But he will 'conform and hold a folder for the show and uniformity' during performances.

### **Family affair**

Harry is proud of the fact that he sang in the Seattle chorus alongside both his father Gustaf and uncle Robert until the 1960s. He was no less proud when at the turn of the century his two sons Larry and Ken Solheim also joined the ranks of the Seattle singers. The latter, an outstanding Tuba player, also served as Assistant Director for the chorus and it gave Harry an extra thrill when Ken took the podium in Benaroya Hall conducting the July 2000 *Sangerfest* Grand Chorus in F. Bullard's "Winter Song".

(to be continued)

### **Minnehaha Mandskor Member Spotlight**

Rex Livermore has sung with the Minnehaha Mandskor for 40 years, having been invited by the late Bill Klein. At one time, when the Mandskor's membership had dropped to 8, Rex was alone on the 2<sup>nd</sup> tenor part. Good fortune has brought the numbers back to 20, so he is now in the good company of 4 others.

(continued on page 16)



## Norwegian Singers Association of America, Inc.

([www.nsaaonline.org](http://www.nsaaonline.org))  
**Pacific Coast Norwegian  
 Singers Association**  
 ([www.pcnsa.org](http://www.pcnsa.org))  
**Club Membership Index**

### ILLINOIS CHICAGO

#### Bjornson Male Chorus

Rehearsals: Each Tuesday 8:00 p.m. at V.F.W. Hall; Camfield and Higgins Road, Park Ridge, IL 60068. President: John Lee, 738 Bent Ridge Lane, Elgin, IL 60120, tel. (847) 741-4210; Secretary: George Michals, 5236 Arlington Drive West, Hanover Park, IL 60103; Director: Edwin Kramer, 32600 East Lane, Grayslake, IL 60030, tel. (847) 546-2050.

#### Normennesen Singing Society

Rehearsal each Tuesday evening at 8PM (except July and August) at the Estonian House, P.O. Box 95, Lincolnshire, IL 60069. tel: (847)537-8016. President: Thor Fjell, 1041 W. Ogden Ave. #118, Naperville, IL 60563. Tel: (630)369-4233, cell: (630) 479-4233, [thorffjell@comcast.net](mailto:thorffjell@comcast.net). Recording Secretary: Frank Potempa, 1788 W. Sherwood Rd., [fcpotempa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fcpotempa@sbcglobal.net) Director: Charles Kessell, 6042 W. Grace St., Chicago, IL 60634. Tel: (773)481-5941, cell (773)858-5325, [perc55@juno.com](mailto:perc55@juno.com).

### ROCKFORD

#### Harmony Singing Society

Rehearsal each Tuesday 7:30 p.m. at our Club: 1104 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. Rockford, IL 61104. President: Jim Wolf, 1104 15<sup>th</sup> Ave., Rockford, IL 61104, tel (815) 965-7833.; Corresponding Secretary: Dan Lindberg 214 Rome Ave. #2 Rockford, IL 61107. Tel. (815) 229-0625. [Danielalindberg@CS.COM](mailto:Danielalindberg@CS.COM) Director: Paul Steffan, 4225 Barley Ridge Tr., Cherry Valley IL 61016, tel (815) 289-8077.

### IOWA SIOUX CITY

#### Nordic Male Chorus

Rehearsals: Every Monday night, 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 315 Hamilton Blvd. Sioux City, Iowa 51103; President: Gary Munson, 3303 Court St., Sioux City, IA 51104, tel. (712) 277-1428; Corresponding Secretary: Robert R. Hansen, 20 Eastview Drive, Sioux City, IA 51106 ((712) 258-7445 [gregors5@juno.com](mailto:gregors5@juno.com); Director: Charles Schuett, 5040 Stone Ave., Sioux City, IA 51106, tel. (712) 276-2328, [scschuett@aol.com](mailto:scschuett@aol.com).

### DECORAH

#### Luren Singing Society

Rehearsal: Every Monday night, 7:30 p.m. at Thomas Roberts High School. President: Roger Buhr, 105 Randall Dr, Decorah IA 52101, (563) 382-3088 [buhr@mchsi.com](mailto:buhr@mchsi.com). Corresponding Secretary: Donald L. Berg, 407 Leif Erikson Drive, Decorah, IA 52101-1038, tel. (563) 382-5727; Director: Dr. David Judisch, 814 Fifth Ave., Decorah, IA 52101, tel. (563) 382-9222 [judiscda@luther.edu](mailto:judiscda@luther.edu).

### MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS

#### Norwegian Glee Club

Rehearsal: Each Thursday evening at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 4801 France Ave. So., Edina, MN. President: Herb Nelson, 4720 Larkspur Lane, Lake Elmo MN 55042-8541 (651)587-4819; Corresponding Secretary: Charles Engh, 7642 Prairie Flower Blvd., Chanhassen, MN 55317, tel. (952) 4018838; Director: Carsten Slostad, 1065 Portland Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104-7011; tel. (651) 291-8639.

### SOUTH DAKOTA SIOUX FALLS

#### Minnehaha Mandskor

Rehearsal: Each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Center For Active Generations, 2300 W. 46<sup>th</sup> St., Sioux Falls, SD. President: Kirk Preheim, 47784 Julie Rd, Sioux Falls SD 57108. Tel.(605)743-2102, Cell (605)351-5183, [preheimkirk@sdtv.com](mailto:preheimkirk@sdtv.com). Corr. Secretary: Robert Stenberg, 313 Washington Ave., Dell Rapids, S.D. 57022: (605)428-3911, [abstenberg@goldenwest.net](mailto:abstenberg@goldenwest.net) Director: Terry Walter, 2708 West Oak St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 339 0607, <[clefdwellers\\_on\\_oak@juno.com](mailto:clefdwellers_on_oak@juno.com)>.

#### Norse Glee Club

Rehearsal: Each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Nordic Hall. President: Robert Amend, 46458 267<sup>th</sup> St., Hartford, SD 57033-6917. Tel. (605)361-2061; Corresponding Secretary: Gail Kristensen, 11 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St., Apt. #121, Sioux Falls, SD 57104, tel. (605)731-5281. Director: Lyle E. Kroon, 1216 Sunset Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 335-1624.

### CANTON

#### Grieg Male Chorus

Rehearsals: Each Monday, 7:30 p.m. at Canton Good Samaritan Center. President: Bill Kortemeyer, 406 E. Poplar Dr., Canton, SD 57013, tel. (605) 764-9060. [ringshanks@iw.net](mailto:ringshanks@iw.net) Corresponding Secretary: Jerry Holter, 28724 480<sup>th</sup> Ave., Canton, SD 57013, tel. (605) 987-2161; Director: Lane Karli, 3401 S. Grace Ave., Sioux Falls SD 57103-7219, (605) 275-5591. [lkarli@sio.midco.net](mailto:lkarli@sio.midco.net)

### WISCONSIN MADISON

#### Edvard Grieg Chorus

2262 Winnebago, Madison, WI 53704  
 Rehearsal: Each Tuesday, 7 p.m. President: Steve Christenson, 519 N. Harrison St., Stoughton WI 53579, (608) 873-9846 [steveKrisC@yahoo.com](mailto:steveKrisC@yahoo.com); Corresponding Secretary: Dick Johnston, 26 Chautauqua Tr., Madison WI 53719, (608) 833-6284 ; Director: Mark W. Everson, 711 Highway #106, Edgerton, WI 53534, tel. (608) 884-9398 [evers11111@aol.com](mailto:evers11111@aol.com).

### SIOUX VALLEY SINGERS ASSOCIATION

#### OFFICERS:

President:: Curt Hepner, 321 N. Lincoln St., Canton SD 57013-1721 (605)764-2914 [mycurt@sio.midco.net](mailto:mycurt@sio.midco.net). Vice President: Ed Stone, 2009 3rd Ave, So. Sioux City NB 68776 (402)494-2956 [jeston7@longlines.com](mailto:jeston7@longlines.com) Secretary: Ronald Beck, 28206 465<sup>th</sup> St., Lennox, SD 57039, tel. (605) 647-2851, [beckpardoxx@speednet.com](mailto:beckpardoxx@speednet.com); Treasurer: David Stene, 6109 Canary Place, Sioux Falls, SD 57107-1076, tel. (605) 332-2055; Director: Lyle Kroon, 1216 Sunset Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 335-1624.

## PACIFIC COAST NORWEGIAN SINGERS ASSOCIATION

### OFFICERS:

President: Phil Overlund, 11556 Shadow Ranch Rd, La Mesa, CA 91941, tel. (619) 660-1125, [jpoverlund@cox.net](mailto:jpoverlund@cox.net);  
Vice President: Ken Lake, 5003 NE 1094 PL, Lake Forest Park, WA 98155, (206) 362-5611, [kennethlake@comcast.net](mailto:kennethlake@comcast.net); Secretary: Claire Egtvedt, 5904 96<sup>th</sup> St SW, Mukilteo WA 98275 (425) 347-4944 [chegtvedt@comcast.net](mailto:chegtvedt@comcast.net); Treasurer: Jeff Tremblay, 18724 Soundview Dr, Stanwood WA 98292 (360) 652-0371 [jtremb2@aol.com](mailto:jtremb2@aol.com); Trustees: California: Borre Ulrichsen, 715 Cascade Ct, Walnut Creek CA 94598, (415) 205-8064, [borre@ulrichsen.net](mailto:borre@ulrichsen.net); Oregon: Orv Sletten, 3087 Oakcrest Dr NW, Salem, OR 97304, tel. (503) 581-7099, [orvviv44@comcast.net](mailto:orvviv44@comcast.net); Washington: Pete Petersen, 713 E 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Ellensburg WA 98926, (509) 607-9406 [o.petersen@gmail.com](mailto:o.petersen@gmail.com). Trustee at Large: Mark Agerter, 3850 Gilham Rd, Eugene, OR, 97408, (541)-685-0115, [markagerter@peak.org](mailto:markagerter@peak.org)

## CALIFORNIA

### OAKLAND

#### Normanna Glee Club

Rehearsal: Each Monday at 8:00 p.m., Bjornson Hall, 2258 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, CA 94602. President: Howard Hansen, 149 Tharp Drive, Moraga, CA 94556, tel. (510) 376-7611; Secretary: Robert Brewer, 15 Castle Park Way, Oakland, CA 94611, tel. (510) 531-9684, [jugjockp47@aol.com](mailto:jugjockp47@aol.com); Director: Dick Meyer, 3440 Adell Ct., Apt. 2, Oakland, CA 94602, tel. (510) 482-4714, [meyersfbc@aol.com](mailto:meyersfbc@aol.com).

### SACRAMENTO

#### Nordik Sangkor

Rehearsal: Second Sundays, 1:30 p.m., at Advent Lutheran Church, 5901 San Juan Ave., Citrus Heights, CA. Contact person/director: Walter Braafladt. President: Walter Braafladt, 4174 Dena Way, Sacramento, CA 95821, tel. (916) 482-7919, [wbraafladt@softcom.net](mailto:wbraafladt@softcom.net); Secretary: Rolf Owre, 145 Baxter Ave., Sacramento, CA 95818, tel: (916) 925-8409; Director: Walter Blaafladt, 4174 Dena Way, Sacramento, CA 95821, tel: (916) 4827919, [wbraafladt@softcom.net](mailto:wbraafladt@softcom.net).

### SAN DIEGO

#### San Diego Mannskor

Rehearsal: every Monday at Calvary Lutheran Church, 424 Via De La Valle, Solana Beach, CA 92075. President: Sven I. Olsen, 2991 Jacks Creek Pl. Escondido, CA 92027, tel. (760) 735-6171, [svenio@sbcglobal.net](mailto:svenio@sbcglobal.net); Secretary: Jon Homerud, 3354 Bonica Woods Dr., Bnita, CA 91902 (619) 470-8745 [holmerud@cox.net](mailto:holmerud@cox.net); Director: Joyce Olsen, 2991 Jacks Creek Place, Escondido, CA 92027, tel. (760) 735-6171, [joyceolsen@mac.com](mailto:joyceolsen@mac.com).

### SAN FRANCISCO

#### Norwegian Male Chorus

Rehearsal: Meets every Tuesday 7:00 p.m. at the Norwegian Club, 1900 Fell St., San Francisco, CA. President: Herleiv Storseter, 235 Brentwood Ave., San Francisco, CA 94103 tel: (415) 344-0204; Secretary: Mark Mathisen, 1601 Oakwood Dr., San Mateo, CA 94403 tel: (650) 574-2935, [dchouse@earthlink.net](mailto:dchouse@earthlink.net); Director: Rebecca Stein, 204 Roseann, Pittsburg, CA 94565, tel. (925) 432-1120, [beccab63@hotmail.com](mailto:beccab63@hotmail.com).

## OREGON

### EUGENE

#### The Norsemen

Rehearsal: Each Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Sonja Lodge #38, Sons of Norway, 710 McKinley, Eugene, OR 97402. President: Mike Bagaason, 2060 Bailey Hill Rd., Eugene, OR 97405, tel. (541) 687-2562, [bagaason@rio.com](mailto:bagaason@rio.com); Secretary: Roger Ness, 3079 Stapp Dr. Eugene, OR 97408,

tel. (541) 505-7769, [rdpjness@hotmail.com](mailto:rdpjness@hotmail.com); Director: Ed Amundson, 29453 Culver Lane, tel. (541) 998-6329 [amundson@peak.org](mailto:amundson@peak.org)

### SALEM

#### Thorsmen

Rehearsal: Each Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church Annex, 1198 Lannsing Avenue North East, Salem, OR 97303. President: Robert Johnson, 16485 Oakdale, Dallas OR 97338; Secretary: Roger Vinyard, 4085 47<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Salem OR 97305; Director: Peter Butler, 31869 Eastway, Lebanon, OR 97355, tel. (503) 259-2006, [whitewolf@proaxis.com](mailto:whitewolf@proaxis.com).

## WASHINGTON

### BELLINGHAM

#### Norwegian Male Chorus

Rehearsals every Tuesday evening, 6:00 pm at the Norway Hall, 1419 North Forest St., Bellingham WA. President: Larry Peterson. Tel. (360) 935-1110. Secretary: Jim Florence. Director: Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226, tel. (360) 966-3132, [stmjensen@earthlink.net](mailto:stmjensen@earthlink.net), cell phone 303-3919.

### EVERETT

#### Norwegian Male Chorus

Normanna Hall, 2725 Oaks Avenue  
Everett, Washington 98201

Rehearsals are held every Wednesday evening, 7:30 p.m. at Normanna Hall; President: Allen Feris tel. (360) 435-3144, [Feris.Allen@msn.com](mailto:Feris.Allen@msn.com); Secretary: Robert Bruland, tel. (425)335-1150 [r.bruland@frontier.com](mailto:r.bruland@frontier.com). Director: Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Road, Bellingham, WA 98226, tel: (360) 966-3132, [stmjensen@earthlink.net](mailto:stmjensen@earthlink.net), cell: (389)393-3919

### POULSBORO

#### Vestre Sund Mannskor

Meets every Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at Grieg Hall, Sons of Norway, 18891 Front St., Poulsbo, WA 98370. President: Stan Overby, 29311 Beach Dr., Poulsbo, WA 98370, tel: (360) 779-2460; Secretary: Robert Ellerby, 1261 Cameo Court, Poulsbo, WA 98370, tel: (360) 598.4831; Director: Kathy Haug, 21050 Fern St. Indianola WA 98342. Tel. (360) 908-9806. [Kathy@meland.com](mailto:Kathy@meland.com).

### SEATTLE

#### Norwegian Male Chorus

Rehearsal: Every Monday evening 7:30 p.m. Nordic Heritage Museum, 3014 N.W. 67<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle, WA 98117. Officers: President: Howard Slauson, 6318 189<sup>th</sup> Pl, Lynnwood WA 98036, (425)774-4635, [howardslauson@comcast.net](mailto:howardslauson@comcast.net); Corresponding Secretary: A.J. Skurdal, 3246 NE 104<sup>th</sup> St. Seattle WA 98125, tel(206)525-2524, [askurdal@aol.com](mailto:askurdal@aol.com); Director: Robert G. Johnston, 4707 NE 192 Pl., Lake Forest Park, 98155, tel. (206)362-1094, [bobsings@gohuskies.com](mailto:bobsings@gohuskies.com)

#### Skagit Valley Manskor

#### PO Box 481, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

Rehearsal every Monday at 7:00 PM at Abel Lodge, 21098 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Conway WA 98238,. Officers: President: Jeff Highland tel. (360)387-5285. [highland@smumn.edu](mailto:highland@smumn.edu) Secretary Skip Ingraham tel (360)387-6168. Director Steve Jensen, Bellingham WA, 98226 Cell phone 360-303-3919 [stmjensen@earthlink.net](mailto:stmjensen@earthlink.net).

### TACOMA

#### Normanna Male Chorus

Rehearsal: Each Monday 7:00 p.m., Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 3315 South 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Tacoma, Wash. President: Erick Perkins, 6001-N 40<sup>th</sup> St; Tacoma WA 98407, tel. (253)272-7286, [erperk@comcast.net](mailto:erperk@comcast.net) Secretary: Loren Jangaard, 5917 34<sup>th</sup> St NW, Gig Harbor WA 98335, tel. (252)265-2312, [jangaardl@hatmail.com](mailto:jangaardl@hatmail.com); Director: Jon Malmin, 14211 Peacock Hill Ave, Gig Harbor WA 98332, (tel) (253)514-8677, [jmalmin2@comcast.net](mailto:jmalmin2@comcast.net)

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Rex and Jerry Livermore

A native of Canby, MN, Rex graduated from high school there. He is retired from working in the plumbing and heating industry. His wife Jerry is a member of the auxiliary and works as secretary of the

Watkins Association. Rex has 5 children (first wife deceased) and Jerry has 4, making for large family gatherings.

In terms of hobbies, Rex lists fishing, hunting, woodcarving, and golf. Both Rex and Jerry sing in their church choir. Their lake home near Underwood, MN, draws the Livermore's north for the summer. They return to Sioux Falls in the winter.

Although Rex isn't Norwegian, he must be following some Scandinavian pattern to be drawn to the cold weather rather than the warm. The Mandskor releases him in the summer (we are off anyway) and happily reels him in when fall returns.

Terry Walter