



**VOLUME 113, NO. 2**

**DECORAH, IA**

**Apr.-June 2023**



Edvard Grieg Chorus singing 2023 for the annual Syttende Mai Concert at the Opera House in Stoughton WI.

### **NSAA President's Column**

#### **Greetings**

I hope that the fall brings you renewed energy after a hot summer. I also hope that you have begun rehearsals with some new and old friends.

The steering committee lead by Art Roseland has been busy putting together the elements of an exciting Sangerfest on June 7th & 8th, 2024 in Decorah, IA. This year we hope to

reduce the cost and stress of a long weekend. We have scheduled a two day event primarily at Luther College. The goal is to entice new attendees with a two day Sangerfest. We will still have a grand concert, practices, board meetings, women's luncheon, fellowship room, afterglows, banquet and in general a lot of fun getting together with old friends. Our directors are crafting a program of

familiar songs with some new offerings to sing.

We are expecting 125 singers and their families in Decorah in June. Decorah offers a great many amenities including the newly renovated and enhanced Vesterheim Museum. The board of directors will be meeting soon to discuss the plans and gather suggestions to make this Sangerfest the best ever.

We look forward to seeing in person this spring.



Bill Fried, NSAA President

### **EDVARD GRIEG CHORUS Madison, WI**

Shortly after I submitted my article for the last issue of Sanger-Hilsen some of the information I included began to change. For example, our scheduled performance at Drumlin Reserve Senior Living on March 11 was postponed until April 25 due to a Covid outbreak at the facility. The concert was well received by the residents and they extended an invitation to the Chorus for 2024! Shortly after making this change in plans, the Chorus received an unanticipated request to sing for the Ladies Luncheon at West Middleton Lutheran Church on Sunday, April 30. Two members of the Chorus are also members of the church and we sang the same program we had prepared for our concert at Drumlin Senior Living.

As a result of the two changes we were well prepared for our annual Syttende Mai concert at the Opera House on Saturday, May 20. It was a

beautiful spring day and we sang to a full and enthusiastic house. In fact, when we sang our new song, *We Rise Again*, the audience gave us a standing ovation as we hit the last note! We always ask for voluntary donations at the conclusion of the show and we received \$700, a new record. Members of the Chorus enjoyed an afterglow following the performance, and sang again on Sunday for the 10:30 service at Christ Lutheran Church in Stoughton.

Again we thought that Syttende Mai would be our last performance for 2022-23, but we received a request to sing for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service of Covenant Lutheran Church in Stoughton on June 18. We welcomed the opportunity to sing for the event as we have several current and former Chorus members who are also members of the church, and it is where we hold our weekly practice in Stoughton. Covenant Lutheran was established in 1973 as a result of the merger of two former churches, Our Saviors Lutheran (founded in 1903) and Central Lutheran (founded in 1914). A luncheon following the service was enjoyed by all in attendance.

We think we are now on our summer break, but our wonderful and dedicated director, Linda Svano, wants to keep us singing! We will see how that works out. Wishing our fellow singers a restful and smoke-free summer.



Dick Johnston, Corr. Sec.

**LUREN SINGING SOCIETY****Decorah IA**

The Luren Singers had a "Bon Voyage" concert at St. Lukes Catholic Church in St. Lucas, Iowa on Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup>. It was a great way to ready ourselves for our two week tour that began on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The church is a beautiful gothic style with some remarkable stain glass windows adorning the sanctuary.



Sanctuary of St. Lukes Church

Some of our Luren members are an active part of that church. Following the concert we were entertained with a delicious lunch at the German/American Museum across from the church. Such a nice prelude to our two week trip where we had 5 concerts in 4 countries. Included in this issue is some information about the trip.

Luren Singers just finished their annual work at the Fair Stand and it was a record setting year for sales. Each member has to work a 9 hour shift and provide three 10-inch pies. The Luren stand is chaired by Ken Larson who does a wonderful job with it all.

The Singers will participate in Nordic Fest in the last week of July with an opening ceremonies small concert and a full concert on Friday night at the Courthouse Square. On Saturday during the parade, the Luren

float is staffed with several singers as they wind their way on the parade route singing their hearts out.

The Fall rehearsals begin in early Sept. and we have several concerts to ready our voices for in the Fall.

Have a good summer and we welcome you to Sangerfest in Decorah in June of 2024 at Luther College

**Obituary**

Francis Peterson

One of our longtime members passed away at Grandview Care Center in Oelwein, Iowa on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>. His funeral was at Decorah Lutheran on June 11<sup>th</sup> and the Luren Singers participated in the final rites with some special music. Frances was a very active member of Luren and also NASA. He was President of Luren and then President of the NASA governing body and also was Treasurer of Luren for a number of years. He also was Chair of a Sangerfest that was in Decorah a few years ago.

Francis was a teacher and coach after he graduated from Luther College. He eventually followed that tradition from teacher to administrator where he served over 40 years in education. Francis married a Luther classmate, Marilyn Knudson and they celebrated 73 years of marriage. Blessed be the memory of Francis Peterson.



Lee Grippen, Corr. Sec.

**SANGER-HILSEN**

("SINGERS GREETING")

Published every 3 months, by the Norwegian Singers Association of America Incorporated under State Laws of South Dakota as an Educational Society.

Address all matters for publication subscriptions, renewals, change of address, and make remittances payable to:  
NSAA Treasurer Richard Bjorlo, 401 W Steven Ave, Rushford MN 55971.

**Acting Editor (RETIRING)**

Dennis Barnaal  
735 Ridge Road  
Decorah, IA 52101  
[barnaade@luther.edu](mailto:barnaade@luther.edu)

[www.nsaaonline.org](http://www.nsaaonline.org)

Subscription price \$20.00 per year  
Periodicals postage paid at Decorah, Iowa.  
*Sanger-Hilsen USPS 481-380*

**OFFICERS OF NSAA**

**President:** Bill Fried, 18346 Bee Hill Dr., Spring Grove MN 55974, Tel. (507)498-5611

**Vice President at Large:** Frank Potempa, 418 Farmhill Circle, Wauconda IL 60084 (847)296-2568 [fcpotempa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fcpotempa@sbcglobal.net)

**Recording Secretary:** Richard Leake, 703 Valley View Dr., Decorah IA 52101 (563) 382-3796 [leakeric@luther.edu](mailto:leakeric@luther.edu)

**Corresponding Secretary:** Rolf Svanoe 1108 Linden St. , Decorah IA 52101. Tel. 563-277-1001. Cell (605)940-9702

[rolfsvanoe@gmail.com](mailto:rolfsvanoe@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Richard Bjorlo, 401 W Steven Ave., Rushford MN 55971. Tel. (507)864-3337. [richthered@aol.com](mailto:richthered@aol.com)

**Grand Marshal:** Jim Svanoe, 4985 Simon Trl, Wauhalkee WI 53597-9179

**Assistant Grand Marshal:** James Slostad, 1065 Portland Ave, St. Paul MN

55104-7011.

(952)953-9264

[jim27ps@gmail.com](mailto:jim27ps@gmail.com)

**Director-in-Chief:** Dr. David E. Judisch, 814 Fifth Ave., Decorah IA 52101. (563)382-9222. Cell (563)380-7707

[judiscda@luther.edu](mailto:judiscda@luther.edu)

**Assistant Directors:** Ed Kramer, 32600 N East Lane, Grayslake IL 60030-9579. Tel.(847)546-2050. [ed.kramer@att.net](mailto:ed.kramer@att.net)

Linda Svanoe, 4985 Simon Trl, Wauhalkee WI 53597-9179

**Past President:** Paul Larson, 210 Fairbrook Dr., Waunakee WI, 53597-2207. Tel. (608)850-4910. Cell (608)444-3344 [polarson@chorus.net](mailto:polarson@chorus.net)

**NSAA STATE VICE-PRESIDENTS**

**Illinois:** Frank Potempa, 418 Farmhill Circle, Wauconda IL 60084 (847) 296-2568 [fcpotempa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fcpotempa@sbcglobal.net)

**Iowa:** Jim Glesne, 2784 U.S. Hwy 52, Decorah IA 52101. Cell (563)380-8110. [jmgdecorah@gmail.com](mailto:jmgdecorah@gmail.com)

**Minnesota:** Herb Nelson, 620 Oak St. West, Stillwater MN 55082-5624. (651)587-4819.

[normanarlandson@gmail.com](mailto:normanarlandson@gmail.com)

**South Dakota:** Curt Hepner, 321 N. Lincoln St., Canton SD 57013-1721. (605)764-2914 [mycurt67@gmail.com](mailto:mycurt67@gmail.com)

**Wisconsin:** Jonathan Lewis, 1124 E. Main St., Stoughton WI 53589. 608-873-5268. [1124lewis@gmail.com](mailto:1124lewis@gmail.com)

**VETERAN CHORUS**

**Director:** Mark Everson, N6973 Rock Lake Rd #26, Lake Mills WI 53551. Cell (608)774-0396. [evers11111@aol.com](mailto:evers11111@aol.com)

**DEADLINE FOR  
July-? 2023 ISSUE  
To be announced  
Editor D. Barnaal retiring**

**NEWS FROM  
MINNEHAHA MANDSKOR  
Sioux Falls SD**

This writer would like to begin by thanking the faithful readers who've blessed her life in the last 34 years. I retired from the leadership of the Minnehaha Mandskor 4 years ago but have continued my association with them via the writing of these columns for the SANGER HILSEN.

The decision by the chorus to withdraw from the NSAA means this will be my last submission. The withdrawal was prompted by recommendation of members of the chorus. The Board reviewed the recommendation and approved a motion to the chorus. On May 8, 2023, a business meeting was conducted by the chorus to present the motion to withdraw from the NSAA. The result of the motion was a unanimous vote to withdraw.

The chorus was informed that if there were members who wanted to participate in Sangerfest, it would provide the support to meet the requirements of Article III Subsection 8 of the Norwegian Singers Association of America by-laws. There may be 2 or 3 members who have interest. In that event, the accompanist indicated she would be willing to rehearse Sangerfest songs with them.

The chorus will continue to meet, rehearse, and perform primarily for local institutions. The chorus membership numbers have declined due to age and health issues. Initiatives are underway to evaluate and broaden our recruiting efforts. With this action the focus will be directed to music with English lyrics.

On October 29, 2022, the choruses of the SVSA met to review the organization's status, given two of the choruses were no longer in existence. A motion was presented and unanimously accepted to disband the SVSA. So, the Minnehaha Mandskor has no other association with NSAA choruses.

While saddened to take this action, the chorus will continue the history of the Minnehaha Mandskor which organized and instituted its constitution on December 11, 1890. The members extend greetings and well wishes to the NSAA.



Terry Walter, correspondent

**GRIEG MALE CHORUS  
Canton SD**

Since Jerry Holter has not been able to come to chorus since his tractor accident, I will be filling in for this correspondence. Jerry had another surgery on his foot in June and seems to be recovering very well. We pray that he will be able to join us again because he is greatly missed.

We only had one concert this summer on June 15th at the Lennox Municipal Band concert in Lennox, SD. We sang four numbers during the band's intermission. We were very well received.

We have lost another member from the Grieg Chorus. Gerrit VanDenTop sang in the bass section and will be remembered for his laughter and easy-going nature. He will be truly missed.

**Obituary**

Gerrit Jr. VanDenTop, age 84, died Thursday, April 20, 2023 surrounded by family at Touchmark at All Saints in Sioux Falls, SD. Funeral services will begin at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at Redeemer Free Lutheran Church in Canton, SD. Visitation, with family present, will be Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. at Redeemer Free Lutheran Church.

Gerrit was born on February 5, 1939 in Inwood, IA to Gerrit Sr. and Elizabeth (Rozeboom) VanDenTop. He grew up in the Inwood area and graduated from Inwood High School in 1957. Gerrit served his country in the Army National Guard. He worked as a stationmaster for the Burlington Railroad before finding his calling in farming.

Gerrit married Maureen Eiesland on September 24, 1960 at Canton Lutheran Church. The couple lived and farmed in the Canton area. Jason was born to this union. Maureen died on January 15, 2017. Gerrit married Lazetta (Ofstad) Ahrendt on April 21, 2018. The couple made their home at Touchmark at All Saints.

Gerrit was very active in his community, through the years he served on numerous boards in a variety of positions. He enjoyed traveling, socializing, casino trips, playing cards, and his many cars and trucks. He was also a long-time member of the Grieg Chorus. His trip to Holland was a highlight of his life but his passion in life was farming with his son, Jason.

\*\*\*

Our first practice of the year will be on August 21. Our director wishes to get an early start and hopefully will be able to line up more concerts for us to do.

Cordially,



Steve Espeland, Temporary Corr. Sec.

**NORWEGIAN GLEE CLUB  
Minneapolis MN**

We hope you, your family, and friends are well and safe.

Well, it finally stopped snowing in Minneapolis, spring was quite late, and now we are experiencing drought conditions. The weather is always something to talk about in Minnesota.

We lost two friends this spring. Gerd E. Hagen was the wife of Bjorn Hagen, a 70 year singer in the Glee Club. Gerd was born December 8, 1926, in Minnesund, Eidsvoll, Norway and passed away on March 21, 2023. She and Bjorn moved to Minnesota in 1948 and together founded a successful fur business. She was active in the Club Auxiliary for many years. Peace to Gerd and her family and friends.



Gerd E. Hagen

Robert (Bob) G. Olson. Age 91, of Edina, passed away peacefully on March 31, 2023. Bob was a former Marine and Edina peace officer. Bob was a wonderful singer, a humble and gentle soul and will be greatly missed.

.Peace to Bob and his family and friends.



Robert (Bob) G. Olson

The Glee Club sang at both funeral services. We miss them.

The Glee Club and members of Mindekirken served a lutefisk dinner on April 15 at Mindekirken. Many, many thanks to the Mindekirken members that helped us sooooo much!!!

On May 8th we performed for the Song of Norway in Anoka, MN. May 8, 1945, was the end of German occupation in Norway. Our director Arden Haug, talked about the significance of the day and the songs we sang. It was a very nice evening. The Glee Club sang for the 41st annual Syttende Mai celebration at the new Norway House.

On the 21st of May, we joined with Mindekirken's singers for their Syttende Mai celebration. It is always a very nice event and the weather was perfect.

The Glee Club auxiliary is planning a summer lunch to be held on August 6, at the Danish American Center.

Jack Hauer has stepped down as our Club president and the position was filled by Arne Selbyg. Jack served 5 difficult years and we thank him immensely.

Have a safe and fun summer.  
Smile: What does a pig put on dry skin? Oinkment

What makes pirates such good singers? Because they can hit the high C's



Gene Willms, Corr.Sec.

### News from Pacific Coast Norwegian Singers Association

The Pacific Coast Norwegian Singers Association held its 112<sup>th</sup> Sangerfest on June 23-25 in Salem, Oregon. Hosted by the Thorsmen Chorus of Salem, the annual event brought together 65 singers from all eight of the PCNSA choruses along the Pacific Coast, from San Diego, CA to Everett, WA.

The headquarters hotel was the Salem Hilton, and the Grand Concert was held at Salem Lutheran Church. Led by Peter Butler and Lyle Johnson, our Directors-in-Chief, the concert consisted of fifteen chorus pieces, with flute, trumpet, percussion, and piano accompaniment. Gary Frame, our guest artist, served as piano accompanist. Of special note was the presentation of a 60-year medal to Erling Berg, of the Norwegian Male Chorus of Seattle, acknowledging 60 years of Sangerfest participation.



Jeff Highland, President PCNSA

**Highlights of the Luren Singing Society Scandinavian Tour (June 15-28, 2023)**

**Thursday, June 15, 2023 (depart Decorah and fly to Bergen)**

Starting from the parking lot below Decorah Bank at 12:30 pm, 75 Luren singers and friends boarded two buses and drove to the Minneapolis airport for a flight to Bergen, Norway with a stopover in Reykjavik, Iceland on Icelandair. The airplane seats were small, the flights were long, and the breakfast in Iceland was a memorable first out-of-country meal experience for many of us.



Openface sandwiches at Iceland airport.

**Friday, June 16, 2023 (arrive in Bergen)**

The group arrived at Bergen at 2:35 pm and met our tour managers Almar (Bing-Bong) Otjes and Bettina Althalle who accompanied us for the entire trip. After a tour through the old city and fish market, we arrived at the Zander hotel (Zander Kaaes gate 8, 5015 Bergen). We had some time to explore the city before dinner at the hotel followed by some much needed sleep.

**Saturday, June 17, 2023 (Day in Bergen and sing at Fana Kirke)**

In the morning the group toured Edvard Grieg's house at Troldhaugen and many of us watched a concert by Emil Duncumb who played selections from Grieg's works.



Grieg's house.

Instead of going directly back to the hotel, a few of us explored the fish docks for lunch. Towards evening we went by bus to the Fana Kirke Church (Fanavegen 320, 5244 Bergen) that was built in about 1150 and sang a concert with Fana Mannskor. We sang with gusto as the acoustics were very lively and the audience clearly enjoyed our performance.



Fana Church.

The concert ended with exchanging gifts and the hosting choir treating us to a dinner reception at Stend VGS (Videregående skole, Fanavegen 249,



5244 FANA), a nearby country club. The food was very good and the members of the Fana Mannskor entertained us with many jokes, stories and songs. This choir was founded in 1941 and served as part of the Nazi resistance during the war.

**Sunday, June 18, 2023 (Tour Bergen and ferry to Flåm )**

The next day, the group was up early, ate a fantastic breakfast and loaded the bus with our luggage for our next adventure to begin by 7:45 AM. After a short drive to the Floibanen Funicular the group took turns traveling up to a lookout spot by cable car on the top of Mount Fløyen (320meters ó 8minutes.)



View down into the cloud on Floibanen

Although the day was overcast, the skies cleared as we reached the top. All that was visible of Bergen was the tops of the mountains surrounded by an ocean of clouds; it was magical. Next, we drove about 3 hrs. to Gudvangen where we ate lunch and got on a ferry down the idyllic Aurlandsfjord to arrive at Flåm. The scenery on the ferry was beautiful along the fjord and then spectacular as we came to the end of the fjord and disembarked to the picturesque

Fretheim Hotel (NedreFretheim, 5743 Flåm) where we ate dinner at the award-winning Arven Restaurant.

**Monday, June 19, 2023 (Train rides to Myrdal and Oslo)**

In the morning the group boarded a train that took us through the valley of Flåmsdalen to the station of Myrdal.



Group on part of trip, called Norway in a Nutshell.

The beauty of this trip was almost indescribable as we saw waterfalls and mountain lakes surrounded by snow covered rocks. At one point the train stopped at a waterfall that was hundreds of feet wide and at one side was an old building and they had actors who appeared in costume and danced to recorded music as if they were spirits.



Waterfall along train ride.

We changed trains in Myrdal (a climb of about 2,600 feet from the fjord) and continued on a high-speed luxury train to Oslo, and then to the Anker Hotel (Storgata 55, 0182 Oslo) where we ate dinner. One memorable moment was when we arrived at the train station in Oslo and pretty much took up the whole platform which was quite inconvenient for all the local commuters, but then, our conductor Dave Judisch led us in singing Sangerhilsen, and it was magical how good we sounded, and all the people clapped.

**Tuesday, June 20, 2023 (Tour Oslo and sing at Skarnes)**

In the morning the group took a bus trip downtown to see the Olympic Stadium ski jump and Vigeland Sculpture Park. Although the rain and automobile traffic hindered some of the experiences, they were memorable for all. In the afternoon we boarded buses and drove north to the city of Skarnes where we sang at Solbakken Folkehøgskole (Ellingsrudveien 10, Skarnes, near Eidsvold) with the Ters Pink Choir. This was exciting as many of our friends from Decorah were there. Dinner that evening was at a nearby establishment that served a variety of interesting meats including reindeer and whale.

**Wednesday, June 21, 2023 (Train ride to Stockholm, Sweden)**

The group got up very early and boarded the buses with a boxed breakfast, which included caviar fish-paste in a toothpaste tube. The train was late in arriving, but when we finally began the ride, the trip was memorable due to the ease of travel on high-speed electric trains. The arrival at Stockholm was somewhat difficult as a number of us slipped on

the escalators with one of our members being injured enough to need a bandage. At the Elite Palace Hotel (Sankt Eriksgatan 115, 113 43 Stockholm) we had a delicious dinner and a good night's rest.



Swedish countryside.

**Thursday, June 22, 2023 (Tour Stockholm and sing at Hedvig Eleonora Kryka)**

In the morning the group enjoyed a guided tour of Sweden's capital with a really first-rate guide who took us by the palace of the Royal Family, and the City Cathedral. Highlights included a surprise view of the King and Queen who were giving a speech on the occasion of their 50th jubilee year. After returning to the hotel to get ready for the concert, we traveled to the Hedvig Eleonora Kryka (Storgatan 2, S114 51 Stockholm), which had magnificent architecture and extremely lively acoustics.



Luren singing in Hedvig E. Kyrka.

One of the highlights was an organ piece by Ulf Norberg, the church organist, who improvised a piece incorporating both the American and Norwegian national anthems. In addition, one of the organizers of the concert was a former student from Luther College who accompanied us to dinner. Dinner that evening was disappointing for some as the restaurant, which was within walking distance of the hotel, was not sufficiently prepared for the size of our group and we waited a very long time before any food was brought, which turned out to be quite exotic for many of us and included steak tartare (which is raw meat.)

**Friday, June 23, 2023 (Midsummer day to Tour Stockholm)**

Small groups set off on their own to explore the city and the Skansen Park midsummer celebration and other attractions such as the ABBA, Norse, and Viking Museums. The weather was sunny and clear.

**Saturday, June 24, 2023 (Continued to tour Stockholm and board the ferry to Helsinki)**

In the morning, the group boarded the buses with our luggage and had a second chance to explore the city. Many of us went to the Vasa Museum to see a salvaged 3-deck wooden ship from the 17th century. It was spectacular in size and decoration, but due to a terrible design flaw, it sank on its maiden voyage. The bus transferred us to the ferry (which resembled a cruise ship) called the Vartahamnen ferry (SILJA SYMPHONY) and we enjoyed an overnight passage across the Baltic. Dinner that evening was especially fun, the views of the archipelago of islands were amazing, and a number

of people stayed up for disco dancing and Karaoke which featured Dr. Judisch, Rachel Storlie, Randy and Diane Schumann, and Jarrett Johnson.

**Sunday, June 25, 2023 (Arrive in Helsinki and sing at the Rock Church)**

The water was calm for our crossing of the Baltic and the entrance to Helsinki was very narrow with many islands. We toured the harbor area which is known for the production of ice-breaking boats and we saw six of them. They are incredibly huge. Our tour guide on the bus was from Brazil and he was excellent at showing us Finland's capital sights such as the Helsinki Cathedral and Old Market Hall.

The city was mostly empty as many of the people were on holiday celebrating the midsummer. The historical connection with the Russian Czars as well as the influence of the Soviet Union were very evident, and included Eastern Orthodox churches and statues of Russian Monarchs. The Scandic Meilahti Hotel (Tukholmankatu 2, 00250 Helsinki) was very new and spacious. That afternoon we sang at Tempeliaukion Church (The Rock Church, Lutherinkatu 3, 00100 Helsinki).



The Rock church in Helsinki.

The space in this church is very large (room for 750 people) and the ceiling

is very high (100-feet) with a huge copper dome (slightly concave and perfectly round) on top of 180 cement beams with long parallel windows that give the effect of natural light filtering through shuttered windows. The light changed as you moved through the church and looked in different directions as well as when the sun moved across the sky. There was a good-sized crowd that was very enthusiastic. The acoustics were excellent. both for us to hear each other as well as for the audience to hear us.

**Monday, June 26, 2023 (Ferry trip to Tallinn with a concert at St Mary's)**

The alarm went off at 4:15 and we were up for breakfast and on the bus for the ferry crossing to Tallinn, Estonia very early. The ferry was similar in size to the Vartahammen ferry with a cargo hold for automobiles and semi-trucks which loaded simultaneously on two levels of the ferry. The bus tour guide through Tallinn spoke wonderful English. The city has a complicated history with a large dose of Soviet influence (including a KGB-museum in one of the hotels.) The old city was amazing with the upper part walled off from the lower section and the lower section had narrow cobblestone street and medieval buildings with stores and restaurants.

The church we sang in was huge with a large dome and thick columns called St.Maryø Cathedral (Toom-Kooli 6, 10130 Tallinn) and the walls were covered with intricately carved coats-of-arms representing the families of people buried under the floor and in the cemetery. The church was built in

1247. The concert was wonderful and we took a group picture (including a mystery person.) The ferry ride home was great fun with all the beer and wine we wanted.

**Tuesday, June 27, 2023 (Tour Helsinki and celebrate with a farewell dinner)**

Everyone slept late and many of us explored the city. Our farewell dinner included traditional Viking food at a place called the Saaga. The evening program was especially memorable due to a song written with original verses to a familiar tune, and our conductor Dave Judisch thanking everyone who had participated in organizing and performing at the concerts. He also thanked the companion tour participants for being a built-in audience at every concert.

**Wednesday, June 28, 2023 (depart Helsinki, fly to Minneapolis with a stopover at Reykjavik and the final bus trip to Decorah)**

We were up early and ready for the trip home, although our departure from Helsinki was a bit delayed. The layover in Reykjavik was fine with a very long flight back to Minneapolis-St Paul. As we flew the clocks were set back, so that the traveling disappeared and we arrived in Minneapolis close to the same time we left Iceland. The bus ride back to Decorah was later than we anticipated, but we arrived home safely to find our cars and drive home around midnight. The only casualties were that the historic Luren Lur was damaged by the baggage handlers on the final flight and two couples whose luggage remained in Iceland for several days.

By John Jefferson and Karen Gray.

Photos by D. Barnaal.

GRAND CONCERT - 7:00 PM, June 8, 2024  
Center for Faith and Life, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

Ja, vi elsker dettelandet  
Star Spangled Banner

Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson/Rikard Nordraak  
Francis Scott Key/John Stafford Smith

**I**

I Will Praise Thee, O Lord  
Endu et Streif kun  
Vackra Sky  
Shout to God

Knut Nystedt  
Agathe Backer-Grøndahl  
C. A. Brolén  
Joseph Martin

**II**

Soloist ?

**III**

Let There Be Music  
Morgensangaf Elverskud  
One Faith, One Hope, One Lord w/trumpet  
Patriotic Fantasy

Frances Williams  
Niels Gade  
Craig Courtney  
G. M. Cohen

**IV**

Instruments?

**V**

God of Grace and God of Glory w/brass ensemble Arranged by Harold Moyer  
Keep Your Lamps w/percussion Arranged by Bernhard Gluth  
Get Me to the Church on Time from *My Fair Lady* Frederick Loewe  
Landkjending Edvard Grieg

---

Veterans Chorus will sing for the Memorial Service on Friday evening, June 7, 2024.  
They will sing:

Den Store Hvide Flok ó arranged by Edvard Grieg (key of G) with soloist.

**Norwegian Singers Association  
of America, Inc.**  
(www.nsaaonline.org)  
**Club Membership Index**

**ILLINOIS  
CHICAGO**

**Normennes Singing Society**

Rehearsal each Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. (except July and August) at the Estonian House, P.O. Box 95, Lincolnshire, IL 60069. tel: (847)537-8016. President: Frank Potempa, 418 Farmhill Circle, Wauconda IL 60084. (847) 296-2568 [fcpotempa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fcpotempa@sbcglobal.net) Corresponding Secretary: Dan Boyle, 8840 Forestview Rd., Evanston, IL 60203. tel (312)330-1450. [danielboyle@me.com](mailto:danielboyle@me.com). 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).

**The Chicago Norsemen**

Rehearsals: to be announced. Corresponding Secretary: to be announced. Director/President: Edwin Kramer, 32600 N. East Lane, Grayrslake, IL 60030, tel (847)546-2050, [ed.kramer@att.net](mailto:ed.kramer@att.net).

**IOWA  
DECORAH**

**Luren Singing Society**

Rehearsal: Every Monday night, 7:30 p.m. at Thomas Roberts High School. President: Bill Fried, 18346 Bee Hill Dr., Spring Grove MN 55974 Tel. (507)498-5611 cell (507)381-9293. [giantbill@gmail.com](mailto:giantbill@gmail.com). Corresponding Secretary: Lee Grippen, 805 North Sp #1, Caledonia MN. Tel. (507)725-3281 cell (507)450-4534. [legrippen@gmail.com](mailto:legrippen@gmail.com). -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: Arne Selbyg ; Corresponding Secretary: Eugene Willms, 7646 Prairie Flower Blvd, Chanhassen MN 55317-8334, tel. (952)221-3758. [gene.willms@yahoo.com](mailto:gene.willms@yahoo.com). Director: Rev. Dr. Arden Haug

**SOUTH DAKOTA  
SIOUX FALLS**

**Minnehaha Mandskor**

Withdrew from NSAA spring 2023  
Corr. Secretary: Terry Walter, 2708 West Oak St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105, tel. (605) 940-5791, [clefdwellers\\_on\\_oak@juno.com](mailto:clefdwellers_on_oak@juno.com) Director: John Pollmann, 309 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Dell Rapids SD 57022. tel. (605)370-8092 [der\\_jaeger@hatmail.com](mailto:der_jaeger@hatmail.com)

**Norse Glee Club**

Social gatherings only.  
Corresponding Secretary: Steve Espeland, 48304 278<sup>th</sup> St., Canton SD 57103 tel (605)987-5720 cell (605)310-2554 [Charsteve.esp@gmail.com](mailto:Charsteve.esp@gmail.com).

**CANTON**

**Grieg Male Chorus**

Samaritan Center. President: Doug Buitenbos. Corresponding Secretary: Jerry Holter, 28724 480<sup>th</sup> Ave., Canton, SD 57013, tel. (605) 987-2161 [jerryholter65@gmail.com](mailto:jerryholter65@gmail.com) ; Director: Doug Buitenbos

**WISCONSIN  
MADISON**

**Edvard Grieg Chorus**

**2262 Winnebago, Madison, WI 53704**

Rehearsal: Each Tuesday, 7 p.m. Acting President: Jon Lewis, 1124 E. Main St., Stoughton WI 53589. 608-873-5268. [1124lewis@gmail.com](mailto:1124lewis@gmail.com) Corresponding Secretary: Dick Johnston, 1716 Dewberry Dr, Madison WI 53719, (608)698-0362 [richarj@charter.net](mailto:richarj@charter.net) ; Director: Linda Svanoe, 4985 Simon Trl, Wauhalkee WI 53597-9179

**SIOUX VALLEY SINGERS ASSOCIATION**  
Dissolved fall 2022

**Pacific Coast Norwegian  
Singers Association**  
(www.pcnsa.org)

**OFFICERS:**

President: Jeffrey Highland; 76 Utsalady Road, Camano Island, WA 98292. (360)387-5285 [highland@smumn.edu](mailto:highland@smumn.edu)  
Vice President: Pete Petersen, 713 E 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Ellensburg WA 98926, (509) 607-9406 [o.petersen@gmail.com](mailto:o.petersen@gmail.com).  
Secretary: Doug Wright, 11921 81<sup>st</sup> Ave E, Puyallup WA 98373, tel. (253)604-4980 [douglas.r.wright@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.r.wright@gmail.com).  
Treasurer: Allen Feris, 23514 135<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Arlington WA 98223, (360)435-3144. [feris.allen@msn.com](mailto:feris.allen@msn.com). Trustees:  
California: Sven Olson, San Diego CA; Oregon: Mark Williams, Eugene OR; Washington: Rick Larson, Everett WA; Trustee at Large: Jerry Thorson, Tacoma WA;  
;Director-in-Chief: Peter Butper, Assistant Director-in-Chief: Lyle Johnson

**CALIFORNIA****OAKLAND****Normanna Glee Club**

Rehearsal: time and place unknown  
President: Larry Schaleger, tel. (510)272-9219 [qubedude@aol.com](mailto:qubedude@aol.com) ;Secretary: Paul Eikeberg, tel. (925)485-1538 [vikingike@yahoo.com](mailto:vikingike@yahoo.com) Director: unfilled

**SAN DIEGO****San Diego Mannskor**

Rehearsal: every Monday at 7:00 p.m. on the campus of San Diego State Univ. in music Bldg. President: Sven I. Olsen, 2991 Jacks Creek Pl. Escondido, CA 92027, tel. (619) 708-6171, [svenio@cox.net](mailto:svenio@cox.net); Secretary: Jon Homerud, 3354 Bonica Woods Dr., Bonita, CA 91902 (619)223-2784 [holmerud@cox.net](mailto:holmerud@cox.net); Director: Alexis Luna.

**SAN FRANCISCO****Norwegian Singing Society of San Francisco**

Rehearsal: Meets every Monday 7:00 p.m. at 235 Brentwood Ave., San Francisco, CA 94127. President: Herleiv Storseter, 235 Brentwood Ave., San Francisco, CA 94103 tel: (415) 344-0204; Secretary: Mark Mathesen, 1601 Oakwood Dr., San Mateo, CA 94403 tel: (650)947-1359, [dchouse@earthlink.net](mailto:dchouse@earthlink.net); Director: unfilled.

**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: Dan Moore, [danielleemore@comcast.net](mailto:danielleemore@comcast.net), (541)520-2211., Secretary: John Meshnik, [jmeshnik@eeeug.com](mailto:jmeshnik@eeeug.com), (541)345-3920; Director: Barry Anderson, [barryanderson746@gmail.com](mailto:barryanderson746@gmail.com), (310)863-1873.

**SALEM****Thorsmen**

Rehearsal: Each Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church Annex, 1198 Lanning Avenue North East, Salem, OR 97303. President: Paul Flora, tel. (503)363-9753 [paul.flora@pgn.com](mailto:paul.flora@pgn.com) ; Secretary: Neil Haugen, tel. (503)910-1239, [neil@haugensgalleri.com](mailto:neil@haugensgalleri.com) ; Director: Peter Butler, 31869 Eastway, Lebanon, OR 97355, tel. (503) 259-2006, [whitewolf372@centurytel.net](mailto:whitewolf372@centurytel.net)

**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, cell phone (360)303-3919, [stmjensen@earthlink.net](mailto:stmjensen@earthlink.net) .

**EVERETT****Norwegian Male Chorus**

Normanna Hall, 2725 Oaks Avenue  
Everett, Washington 98201  
Rehearsals are held every Wednesday evening, 7:00 p.m. at Normanna Hall; President: Gary Strombo, tel. (425)267-9727 [gary.strombo@gmail.com](mailto:gary.strombo@gmail.com) .Secretary: John Mickelson, tel. (425)422-6297 [john\\_mickelson@msn.com](mailto:john_mickelson@msn.com). Director: Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226, cell phone (360)303-3919, [stmjensen@earthlink.net](mailto:stmjensen@earthlink.net)

**POULSBORO****Vestre SundMannskor**

Meets every Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at Grieg Hall, Sons of Norway, 18891 Front St., Poulsbo, WA 98370. President: Dick Roemer Tel, (360)693-2317 [rproem@yahoo.com](mailto:rproem@yahoo.com); Secretary: Mel Haug, tel. (360)297-0791, [mel@melandkathy.com](mailto:mel@melandkathy.com); Director: KathyHaug, 21050 Fern St. Indianola WA 98342. Tel. (360)297-0791. [kathy@melandkathy.com](mailto:kathy@melandkathy.com).

**SEATTLE****Norwegian Male Chorus**

Rehearsal: most Monday evenings 7:30 p.m. Leif Erikson Lodge, 2245 NW 57<sup>th</sup> St., Seattle, WA 98107, last Monday of month 7:30 p.m. Norse Home, 5311 Phinney Ave N. Seattle, WA 98103. Officers: President: Howard Slaussen, tel. (425)774-4635, [howardslaussen@comcast.net](mailto:howardslaussen@comcast.net) ; Secretary: Paul Hendricks, tel (206)379-0039 [phendricksballard@gmail.com](mailto:phendricksballard@gmail.com) ; Director: Julie Parsons, tel (918)273-9268 [jp.conductress@gmail.com](mailto:jp.conductress@gmail.com)

**SKAGIT VALLEY****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 and Secretary: Jeff Highland tel. (360)387-5285. [highland@smumn.edu](mailto:highland@smumn.edu) Director Steve Jensen, 2694 Goshen Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226, cell phone (360)303-3919, [stmjensen@earthlink.net](mailto:stmjensen@earthlink.net)

**TACOMA****Normanna Male Chorus**

Rehearsal: Each Monday 6:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 20 Tacoma Ave. S, Tacoma, Wash. President: Pete Petersen, tel.(509)607-9406, [o.petersen@gmail.com](mailto:o.petersen@gmail.com)  
Secretary: Loren Jangaard, 5917 34<sup>th</sup> St NW, Gig Harbor WA 98335, tel. (252)265-2312, [jangaard@hotmail.com](mailto:jangaard@hotmail.com);  
Director: Jon Malmin, 14211 Peacock Hill Ave, Gig Harbor WA 98332, (tel) (253)514-8677, [jmalmin2@comcast.net](mailto:jmalmin2@comcast.net)



Luren Singers assembling in St. Marys Cathedral, Tallinn Estonia. Director David Judisch walks in foreground and soloist Rachel Storlie stands before the chorus.