

Pacific Coast Norwegian Singers Association



Sangerfest 2005

Celebrating Norway's Independence Centennial



Skagit Valley

Mount Vernon, Washington ~ June 29 to July 2, 2005



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Welcome to Skagit Valley Sangerfest

On behalf of the Sangerfest 2005 Committee, we extend a cordial welcome to everyone who has come to join us in this special celebration commemorating Norway's Independence Centennial.

We hope the 96th gathering of the PCNSA in historic Skagit Valley, where so many Norwegians pioneered during the last two centuries, will bring back cherished memories and will stir for each of us, pleasant experiences long to be remembered.

Planning, organizing, and executing a program such as this is no easy task, especially for a recently established chorus – a hearty “*tusen takk*” therefore, to all the generous volunteers who contributed to this endeavor.



Jeff Tremblay
Chairman



Lou Oravetz
Co-Chairman



Sid Iverson
Co-Chairman

Sangerfest 2005 – Schedule of Events

Thursday, June 30

8:30 am	Golf 1st tee time	Eaglemount Course
9:00 am	Registration & Hospitality	Cotton Tree Lobby
5:30 pm	Flag Ceremonies	Cotton Tree Entrance
7:00 pm	Cocktail Hour	Cotton Tree Banquet Facility
7:30 pm	Welcome Dinner	Cotton Tree Banquet Facility

Friday, July 1

8:30 am	Registration & Hospitality	Cotton Tree
9:00 am	Chorus Rehearsal	McIntyre Hall
12:00 noon	Ladies' Luncheon	McIntyre Hall Foyer
12:00 noon	Men's Luncheon	Skagit Valley College Cafeteria
1:30 pm	Chorus Rehearsal	McIntyre Hall
7:30 pm	Grand Concert	McIntyre Hall
9:30 pm	Afterglow	McIntyre Hall Foyer

Saturday, July 2

8:00 am	PCNSA Directors' Meeting	Cotton Tree Board Room
8:30 am	Hospitality Room	Cotton Tree
9:00 am	PCNSA Business Meeting	Cotton Tree Banquet Facility
Afternoon	Open Time / Excursions	LaConner / Bow
6:00 pm	Banquet/Awards/Dance	McIntyre Hall Foyer

Sunday, July 3

11:00 am	Sunday Service	Salem Lutheran Church
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Med
sangerhilsen
fra



Pacific Coast
Norwegian Singers
Association



Pacific Coast
Norwegian Singers
Association

Sangerfest 2005
Mt. Vernon
Washington

WASHINGTON STATE SENATE



SENATE RESOLUTION 8663

By Senators Haugen, Kline, Pridemore, McAuliffe, Doumit, Franklin, Spanel, Kastama, Keiser, Kohl-Welles, Rockefeller, Jacobsen, Eide, Prentice, Fairley, Berkey, Shin, Fraser and Regala

WHEREAS, The year 2005 marks the 100th anniversary of Norway's independence as a sovereign nation after a peaceful dissolution from Sweden; and

WHEREAS, There are more people of Norwegian descent living in the United States than in Norway itself; and

WHEREAS, Generations of Norwegian-Americans have contributed to the well-being of all Washingtonians; and

WHEREAS, Washington recognizes the value of the customs, traditions, and heritage of all the ethnic groups inhabiting the state; and

WHEREAS, The culture and music of Norway have been celebrated since the first Norwegian immigrants set foot on American soil; and

WHEREAS, Male chorus singing has played an important part on the Pacific Coast of the United States since 1878 when the first Norwegian male chorus was established in Portland, Oregon; and

WHEREAS, Numerous Norwegian immigrants have settled in Skagit Valley since 1847; and

WHEREAS, Singers from all twelve Norwegian male choruses on the Pacific Coast will gather for the annual song festival known as Sangerfest; and

WHEREAS, The Skagit Valley Mannskor is hosting the 96th Pacific Coast Norwegian Singers Association's Sangerfest; and

WHEREAS, The Sangerfest Grand Concert will be held Friday, July 1, 2005, in the McIntyre Hall of the Skagit Valley Community College in Mt. Vernon;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate honor Norwegian Musical Heritage Day in the state of Washington, July 1, 2005, and encourage all citizens to honor the musical contributions of our citizens of Norwegian heritage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Norwegian Singers Association.

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of Senate Resolution 8663, adopted by the Senate

March 28, 2005

THOMAS HOEMANN
Secretary of the Senate



*Skagit Valley Mannskor President & Sangerfest Co-Chairman Lou Oravetz (l),
Sen Mary Margaret Haugen D-Camano Island, Sen Harriet Spanel D-40th District
and chorus Secretary Sid Iverson.*

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Royal Norwegian Consulate

It is with great pleasure that we welcome singers and guests to Mount Vernon for *Sangerfest* 2005.

A nation's culture and traditions are introduced to the rest of the world primarily through its art, literature and music. Through the efforts of the Pacific Coast Norwegian Singers Association and its many choruses from San Diego to Bellingham, the Norwegian spirit through music does thrive on the Pacific Coast. On behalf of Norway, her people, and this consulate, I want to thank you all for your tireless efforts throughout the years for bringing the music of Norway to our area.

The annual meeting of the choruses is a tradition that has existed for over 90 years. We congratulate the *Skagit Valley Mannskor* as a first-time host and extend to you all our best wishes for a successful *Sangerfest*.



Med sangerhilsen,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A. Stang". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Thomas A. Stang
Consul



Royal Norwegian Consulate

KIM NESSELQUIST
VICE CONSUL OF NORWAY

Dear Singers,

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to welcome all of you to the 96th Annual *Sangerfest*, hosted by the Skagit Valley Mannskor.

Being the year when we commemorate the 100 years that have passed since the union with Sweden was peacefully dissolved, this year's *Sangerfest* is of special importance.

Your promotion of song and music, this very important aspect of our Norwegian heritage is valuable to all of us.

Thank you to Skagit Valley Mannskor, and thank you to all of you for keeping our heritage alive.

Lykke til.

Med vennlig hilsen

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Nesselquist". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kim Nesselquist



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Dear Singers and Guests,

On behalf of the Pacific Coast Norwegian Singers Association and the Skagit Valley *Mannskor* we bid you a hearty welcome to our 96th *Sangerfest* and thank you for helping us keep the tradition alive.

With your cooperation, hard work and enthusiasm we will execute the *Forbund* business. Performing in a brand new concert hall, the PCNSA Singers and interna-

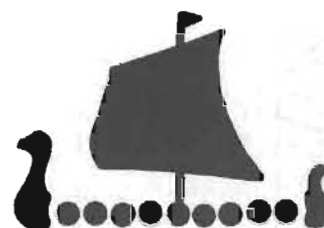


tionally acclaimed soloists will be a treat of a lifetime.

Enjoy your stay in Skagit Valley – enjoy the beautiful song and music – and enjoy the camaraderie.

Med sangerhilsen,

Ronald Olsen
PCNSA President



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GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR

As the Mayor of Mount Vernon, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our great City for the 96th annual Sangerfest sponsored by the Pacific Coast Norwegian Singers Association.

Music makes up a large portion of our nation's heritage and culture. I want to commend the hard work and dedication of the event organizers and participants in bringing this great venue to our state. Without the commitment of these individuals, events such as this would cease to exist.

The City of Mount Vernon is located about half-way between Seattle and the Canadian border. With the majestic Cascade Mountains to the East, and picturesque San Juan Islands to the West, it is a beautiful place to live, work or play. I hope that you enjoy our beautiful McIntyre Hall Performing Arts Center. I am sure it will prove to be the perfect venue for your event. I would also encourage you to take the time to visit some of the various attractions that Mount Vernon has to offer and I hope that you find your stay here in our wonderful City very fulfilling and rewarding.

I wish you the best of luck in producing a successful event here in our City.

Sincerely,

Bud Norris
Mayor



Greetings to the Pacific Coast Norwegian Singers and Guests,

We welcome you to beautiful Skagit Valley. We're proud to have this wonderful event in the very majestic McIntyre Hall. Your music and song is a very important aspect of Norwegian heritage. We extend our best wishes for a great concert.

Sincerely,

Mayor Roger "Gus" Tjeerdsma
City of Burlington, Washington





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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

It is a pleasure to send you my warmest greetings from the City of Oak Harbor!

The dedication of the Norwegian chorus groups to "keep the spirit of the old country alive" for generations to come is so important to the preservation of Norway's history.

Whidbey Island is blessed with a rich variety of cultures. This is what makes our Island a very special place to live and play; and we are proud of the little known fact that the history of Norwegian immigration to Whidbey Island dates back 155 years when Zacharias Martin Taftezon and his family settled in Oak Harbor.

On behalf of the City of Oak Harbor, best wishes for a successful event!

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Cohen
Mayor



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Thank you for your kind invitation to this year's Sangerfest to be held from June 29th to July 2, 2005. Although I am unable to attend, I send my greetings to all the participants and guests of this year's event!

The City of Bellingham has a tradition of fostering musical talent and welcoming diversity. Your event brings pride to the Norwegian community and adds to the celebration of the arts that draws people to the Pacific Northwest.

Best wishes for a successful and entertaining pageant!

Very truly yours,

Mark Asmundson, Mayor
City of Bellingham

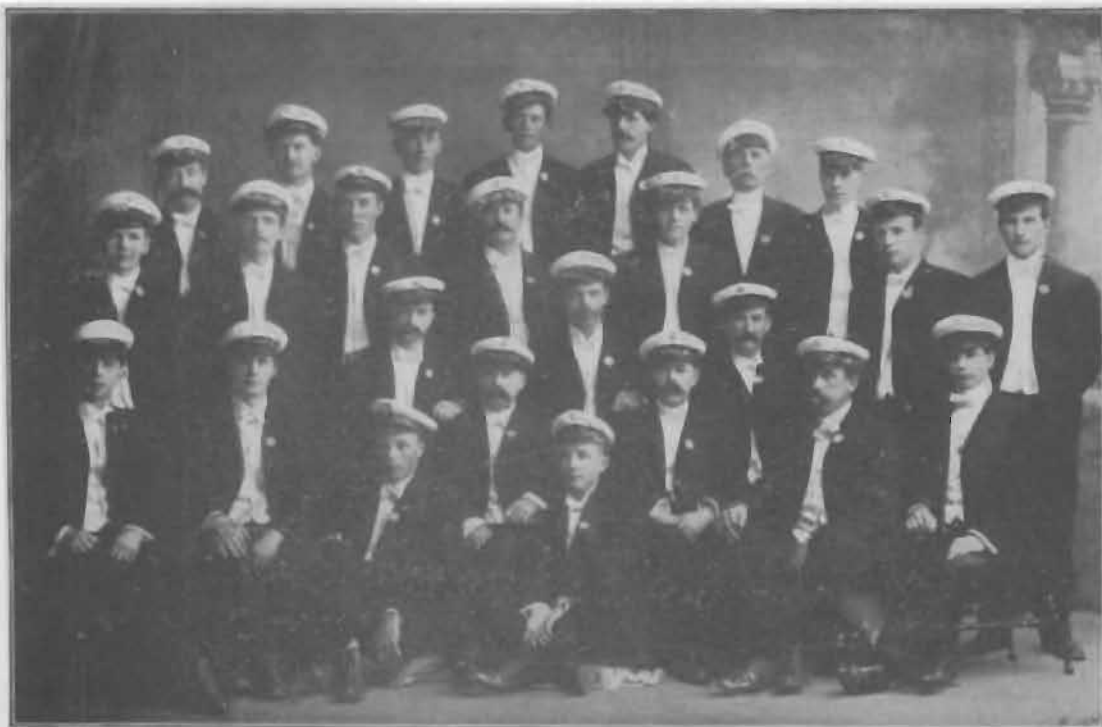


1905-2005 ❖ Celebrating Norway's Centennial



This souvenir program cover from the 1905 Sangerfest held in Portland, Oregon is a clear indication of the strong ties which already existed between the United States and Norway at the time she achieved the peaceful dissolution of the union with Sweden.

(Reprinted with permission, WESTERN VIKING)



The host chorus of 1905 – the Portland Singing Society.



Skagit Valley Mannskor ~ 2005 Sangerfest Host

Singers' Saga

by Dr. Alf Lunder Knudsen

The male chorus as we know it today came into existence during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Although Germany and Switzerland generally are considered its 'birthplace', England, Wales and Scandinavia quickly embraced the movement. By the mid-19th century music societies were established in Norwegian cities such as Oslo, Bergen, Stavanger and Trondheim.

A brief history of the 160-year-old *Oslo Håndverker Sangforening* – having been organized in 1845 – is chronicled on page 12.

Even earlier, by the 1830s, student singing-groups published books with songs arranged in 3-part harmony for use at meetings and festive occasions.

In 1819, an article appearing anonymously in the newspaper *Morgenbladet* claimed that choral singing was "*the art whereby the Spirit is elevated, the Heart is touched, the Body is strengthened, the Person (Human Being) is ennobled, yes, the entire Society prospers.*" (... *den Konst, hvorved Aanden opløftes, Hjertet røres, Organet styrkes, Mennesket forædles, ja hele Samfundet thrives*). The article concluded by challenging a musician named Lars Roverud (1777-1850) to organize choruses. Roverud accepted the challenge, unsuccessfully, but it appears that quartet singing was nevertheless quite popular in the following decades and many other people actively promoted quartet singing.

The late Bishop U. Vilhelm Koren, former President of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church Synod in America, has claimed students from Bergen organized the first student quartet in Oslo in 1844. Behrens was their leader, Pastor Jens Mikel Lund 1st tenor, Koren 2nd tenor, Hartvig Lassen 1st bass and Chr. Hartwig 2nd bass. The following year the quartet had prepared a few songs to participate in the first Nordic student meeting in Copenhagen. On the way down they heard the impressive *Uppsala studentkören* (The Uppsala Student Chorus) perform in Lund and became so discouraged that their quartet never performed one song on the entire trip.

(Continues on page 38...)

Oslo Håndverker Sangforening

dir. Espen Erdal

Afskrift af Partitur
eller Stemmer er
forbudt ifølge Lov.

Andante sostenuto. *cresc.* J. G. Conradi. *pp*

TENOR I.II.

BASS I.II.

1. Det spre-des mer og mer det dunk-le Graa, mildt
2. Hvor dej- lig skjen-ner Vo-sten o- ver Muld! det
3. Fred mel- lom Men- nesker, Guds Fred paa Jord! hans

1. Af- ten- so- len ser paa grøn- ne Stran- de, Hav-
2. er, som Him- len hist i Af- ten- stil- le op-
3. Dug paa hver a- skyl- dig Blomst her- ne de! Du

1. fla- den sam- ler op det smuk- ke Blaa, som
2. sam- led i sit Skjed alt Jor- dens Guld, at
3. gyld- ne Sol, som da- ler mild og stor, o!

Oslo Håndverker Sangforening

Established November 7th 1845

Already back in 1843, the 23-year old musician J. G. Conradi founded a male chorus which consisted of 20 academics and journeymen, and this became the first official male chorus in Norway. There existed already a male chorus among the Freemasons, founded in 1842, but this chorus did not count officially. The Craftsmen have thus been part of the Norwegian choir movement from the very start. This first choral society sometimes assisted at church concerts which Ludvig Mathias Lindeman staged in *Vår Frelses kirke*. After a couple of years this choral society was stopped, but already the same year, the craftsmen started again on initiative from J.G. Conradi. In the newspaper *Morgenbladet* the 8th of November 1845 one could read:

"De Herrer der ønsker at deltage i en Sangforening for Haandverkere, vil behage at tegne deres Navne paa en i Cappelens Boglade udlagt liste."

"The gentlemen who wish to participate in a choral society for Craftsmen, be pleased to sign their names on one in Cappelen's Bookstore displayed list."

Christiania the 7th of November 1845.

J. G. Conradi


During Conradi's inspiring leadership the chorus was invited to perform whenever there were festivities in the city, on Constitution Day, 17th of May and otherwise. Later, Conradi was succeeded by many well known musicians, like Joh. D. Behrens, Paolo Sperati, Ole Olsen, Thorvald Lammers, Iver Holter, Eyvind Alnæs, Frithjof Spalder, Dag Kristoffersen, Thorbjørn Dahl, Olaf Skaffloth, Jon Bara Johansen, Rolf Nymark – and up till today's conductor Espen Erdal.



*Oslo Håndverker Sangforening
Espen Erdal, Director*



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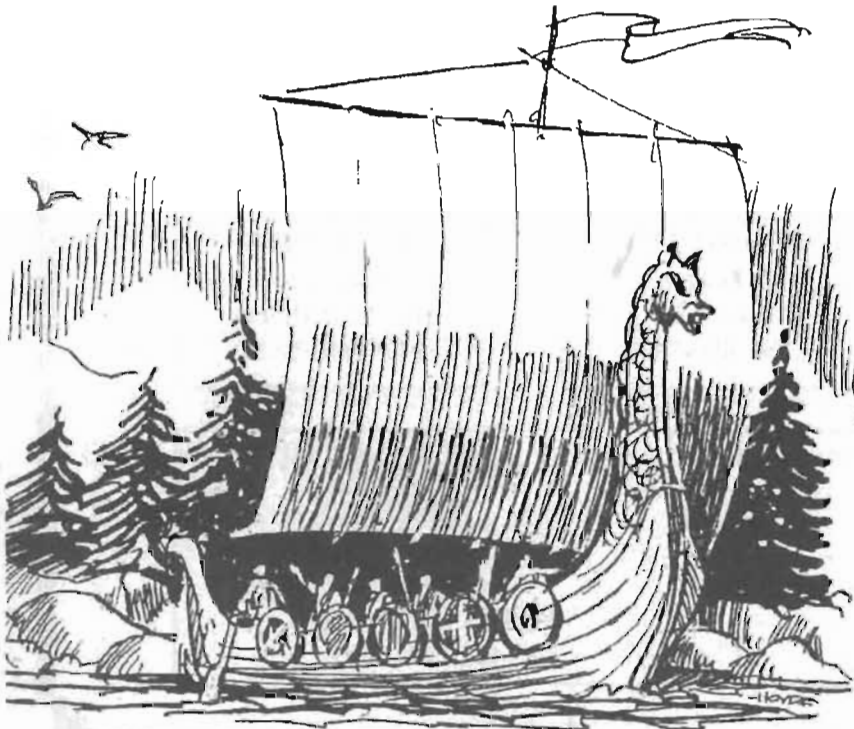
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Norwegian Male Chorus of Bellingham

Bellingham, Washington



*Greetings and Best
Wishes for 2003
Sangerfest*



*Bellingham
Norwegian
Male Chorus*

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Congratulations Skagit Valley Mannskor with the first Sangerfest in Mount Vernon. Best wishes to you and the PCNSA celebration of Norway's 100 year anniversary

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Everett Norwegian Male Chorus

Front Row: Ted West, Sivert Joramo, Dick Dale, Accompanist Betty Williams,
Director Steve Jensen, Asbjorn Engevik, Claire Egtvedt, Bob Larson.

Back Row: Finn Hedin, Arne Rostad, Gary Strombo, President Allen Feris,
Robert D. Larson, Larry Thompson, Richard Olson, Gary Hippe, Jack Wells, Rick Larson.

*The Everett Chorus was organized August 5, 1902, in Quam and Clausen's store.
It was one of five founding members of the Pacific Coast Norwegian Singers Association.
It also had the distinct honor of hosting the very first West Coast Sangerfest in 1903.*

*With only three exceptions, Sangerfest has been held every year since then.
Good luck to the Skagit Valley Mannskor in their very first hosting of Sangerfest!*

2005 Sangerfest Soloists



Ed Amundsen



Espen Erdal



Sverre Sørborg

Velkommen Oslo Håndverker Sangforening
Gratulerer og lykke til med Sangerfesten!





Steve Jensen
Director-in-Chief



G. Robert Johnston
Asst. Director-in-Chief



Dr. Jeffrey Highland
Accompanist



Ron Olsen
President



Mark Agerter
Vice President



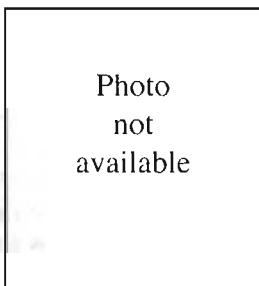
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Treasurer



Erling Skaar
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Bob Flugum
Oregon Trustee



Phil Overlund
California Trustee



Dick Dale
Marshal

Program Notes

by Dr. Alf Lunder Knudsen

Hil dig, Norge ...

... *Hail to you, Norway.* The lyrics for this patriotic song are by Per Sivle (1857-1904) and music by Rudolph Magnus Forwald (1869-1936). *We hail you, Norway, our land, our fatherland. Your glory is ours, your virtue our sons' forever. By word and by deed you shall be honored among councils of nations. We hail you, Norway.*

Naar fjordene blaaner ...

When the Fjords Turn Blue - depicts the re-awakening of nature as yet another spring arrives in Norway. It is a praise, not only to the blue fjords, the beautiful and fragrant flowers, the rushing brooks and the singing birds, but to the hard working men and women of Norway as well. In seven words, *Gud signe dig Norge, mit deilige Land* (God Bless You Norway My Beautiful Land), the lyricist John Paulsen of Bergen, has braided into this song a simple prayer for the homeland. The Norwegian emigrant composer, organist and choral director Alfred Paulsen of Chicago helped immortalize the song with perhaps his best known tune, which he wrote in 1907. A. Paulsen, a student of L.M. Lindemann and Edvard Grieg, also composed and wrote arrangements under the pseudonym of Leon Lambert. He was church organist in Jacob's Church in Oslo until 1888, the year he went to the US. From 1895 he was organist and choral conductor of "Bethanla" and directed both the Norwegian Glee Club and the Norwegian Quartette Club of Chicago. Perhaps the best known Paulsen - Alfred's brother - was Axel who excelled in sports and became World and Olympic Champion both in speed and figure skating. In the latter category his name lives in perpetuity as the innovator of the pirouettes AXEL and DOUBLE AXEL.

Tonerna - Music

Carl Sjöberg (1861 - 1900) a Swedish medical doctor was a self-taught composer best known for the song *Tonerna* (1894) made famous by Swedish tenor Jussie Björling. Alberto Bimboni arranged this version for male chorus and Helen Kaminski has translated E.G. Geijer's poem.

*Dark are the sorrows that come by night
Dreams seek for music to bring release,
Day dawns with sorrow, with sorrow that dims its light.
Day seeks for music for song bringing peace.*

*Songs bring a promise of sweet content,
Hope brightens the sad heart while tones ring with mirth
Songs bring a vision, a vision that's heaven-sent,
Love sings in rapture as life thrills the earth.*

Klara stjärna...

Song by Swedish composer H. Wetterling
Clearest star you who shines, Shim'ring in the dark blue sky
Do not hide your eye from me. To the dwelling where you dazzle
I yearn to go from this earth's rabble Gentle star up to thee.

Varde - The Beacon

Norwegian King Haakon the Good (919-961) ordered beacons built atop mountain peaks throughout the land. Per Sivle's (1857-1904) poem refers to the age-old custom of lighting the beacons to signal people of an approaching enemy. In a matter of days the entire country - Norway's 12,400-mile coastline from south to north - could

thus be alerted. However, an active participant in Norway's national revival movement Sivle applies the historic events to his 'present day' Norway with a premonition of what was to come, leading up to the 1905 peaceful separation from Sweden after nearly 500 years of foreign rule of the nation. The poem describes the husband awakened by banging on the door. "*What's up?*" "*'Tis time to go - the beacon is burning on the mountaintop*" ... *and every man knew at that moment that now war had hit the land...* *They gathered together from place to place, followed the leader and the foe got a taste of what burning the beacon meant...* The solo is a prayer-like wish hoping that the country never be caught off guard without beacons ready to burn, but should that happen Sivle knew that the flame would still burn in the hearts of Norway's sons. Johannes Haarklou's (1847-1925) exciting musical score made this one of the most favored songs in the Norwegian male chorus repertoire.

Hav ...

Poem by Idar Handagard and melody by Oscar Borg
*Hey, you swooping sea gull;
Hey, let me follow you.
Carry me on your white wings
Over your sea-blue way.
Carry me out there where the floorboard/beam timber
Is the chest-wide blue waves,
The sky for a roof arching above,
Carry me out there where the ocean's
Broad-minded proud song sounds
Through the desolate dome/cathedral
As the only melody's pitch.
There I will ride the waves, sail o'er the shiny sea,
Splashed by the salty sea-spray (white-caps)!
Lonely out there die.*

Landkjenning ...

Bjømstjerne Bjørnson's collaboration with Edvard Grieg was to include an opera, *Olav Trygvason*, the Viking King; however, when Grieg started composing the music to Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*, a 16 year break developed between Bjørnson and the composer. The opera was never completed, but *Landkjenning* still remains alive. The original score calls for Male Chorus, Baritone Soloist, Brass Band and Organ. May 17, 1872 was a memorable day as the world premier of *Landkjenning* took place at the Akershus Fortress in Oslo. The occasion was a fundraising bazaar held for the restoration of the Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim. Bjørnson had written the poem for this occasion basing his text on Snorre Sturlason's account of Olav Trygvason's plan to build a church in Nidaros - the medieval name for Trondheim - upon his return to Norway in AD 995. Young Olav had become a Christian in England and wanted to bring Christianity to Norway. In his solo Olav expresses his faith in the Almighty and his men reiterate his prayer in a rousing grand finale. Norwegian composer Ragnar Söderlind and lyricist Knut Moe have completed the opera, *Olav Trygvason* to the tune of NOK 11 million. The opening number of the opera is *Landkjenning*. The world premiere of the opera took place in *Griegshallen* September 26, 2000 in Bergen, Norway.

Grand Concert Program

Steve Jensen, Director-in-Chief • G. Robert Johnston., Assistant Director-in-Chief

Dr. Jeffrey Highland, Piano Accompanist

Ed Amundson, Espen Erdal and Sverre Sørborg, Soloists

Sangerfest Grand Chorus

Steve Jensen, Director

Hil dig, Norge Per Sivle/ R. M. Forwald
Naar fjordene blaaner John Paulsen/ Alfred Paulsen
Down in the Valley arr George Mead
The Lost Chord A. Proctor/ A. Sullivan/ J. Brewer
This Is My Country D. Raye/ A. Jacobs/ arr R. Ringwald

Robert Johnston, Director

Tonerna Geijer/ Sjöberg/ arr A Bimboni
Klara stjärna H. Wetterling
Battle Hymn of the Republic J. Howe/ W. Steffe/ arr P Wilhousky

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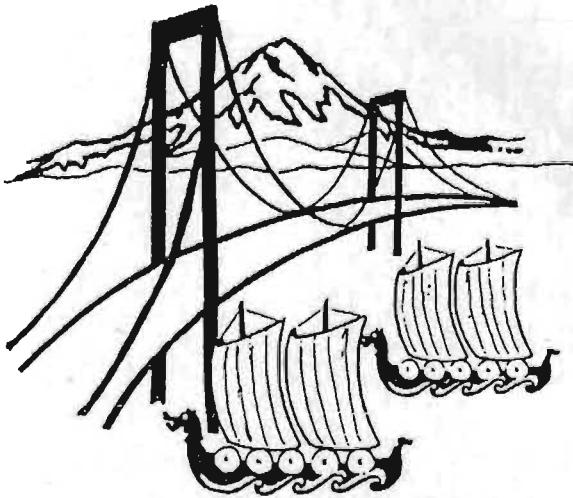
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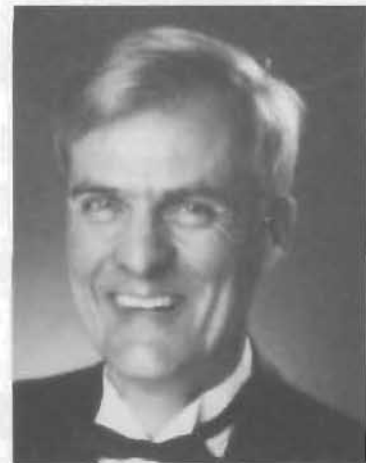


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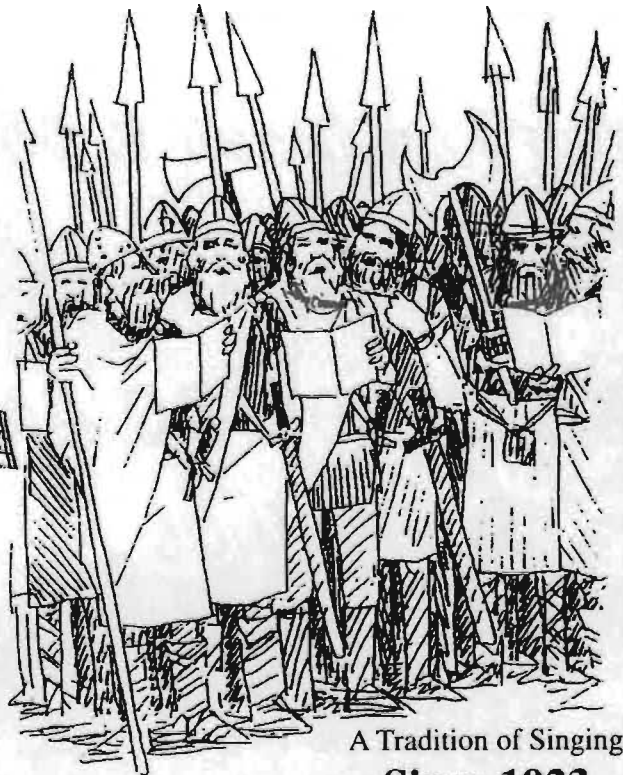
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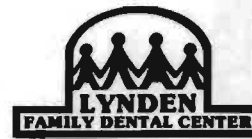
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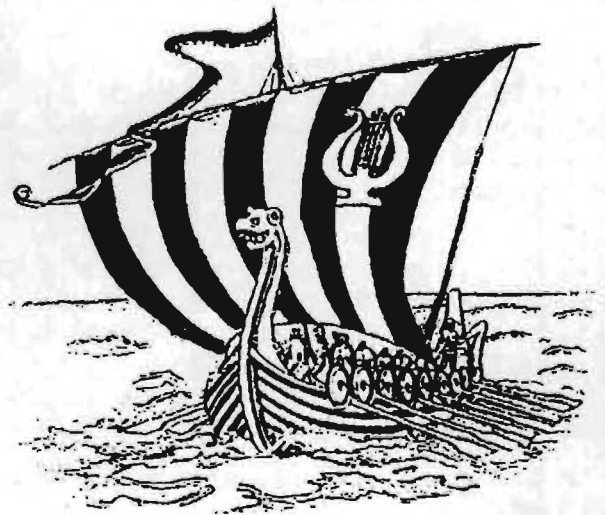
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Singers' Saga...

(...continued from page 11)

On May 10, 1845 – the Eve of Pentecost – this ‘distinguished’ quartet with the assistance of student Niels Jensen and the actor Mantzius went strolling through the streets of Oslo. To the dismay of the patrolling ‘town criers/night watchmen’ they also made frequent stops performing their quartets. Ignoring warnings to stop, the group was hauled off to the police station. They were all charged \$2.00 – ‘ringleader’ Behrens \$10.00 – however, the charges were later dropped due to “the harmonious singing” according to court records.

Organizing choruses

Frimurenes Sangforening (The Masonic Singing Society) in Oslo was organized in 1842, and although it was a good size chorus, this secluded group appears never to have performed publicly and is usually left out of chorus chronologies.

Studentersangforeningen was organized July 10, 1845, by Johan Didrik Behrens (1820-1890), giving him the title of “Father of the Male Chorus Movement in Norway.” The same year, on November 7, Johan Gottfried Conradi (1820-1896) organized *Haandværkersangforeningen* (*OHS*). Conradi also organized *Handelsstandens Sangforening* in 1845, but little is known about this chorus.

Although the chorus was established and, apparently existed for a short while, Behrens subsequently organized a chorus by the same name on October 3, 1847. He also became director of *OHS* the following year, and has been credited with organizing this chorus on September 22, 1848. Also this was in reality a reorganization of Conradi’s old chorus and according to O. M. Sandvik’s account, the membership remained largely the same. There also seems to have been confusion on this point among the members. Not until 1855, when Conradi published a new songbook for Male Chorus, which he dedicated to the original *OHS*, did the members realize that theirs was a new chorus. On the title page, under his name, Conradi had put “foreningens stifter” (“the chorus’ organizer”). He did, however, agree to change that to read “Organizer of the first Craftsmen’s Singing Society in Christiania” (*Stifter af den første Haandværkersang-forening*), but only after Behrens had demanded that the statement be declared false and the controversy had reached the newspapers.

Speculating on what really happened, it seems likely there had been some ‘dissent in the ranks,’ especially among the leadership, which apparently decided to reorganize and elect a new director. Perhaps there were personal-ity conflicts, after all, Conradi, in spite of all his fine qualifications, has been described as “an introvert, somewhat short-tempered and fastidious about artistic details,” whereas Behrens was an extrovert, easy going, enthusiastic, extremely well-liked and, above all, a born leader. Although Behrens was “neither the greatest musician nor a great conductor,” he was a highly gifted organizer; the three first Norwegian Male Choruses, all organized by Behrens, are still in existence.

Conradi’s affiliation with the two “upper class” choruses was short and often rocky. However, there was cooperation among different male choruses, such as Oslo’s ‘*Three Great Ones*’, which Behrens directed in the 1850s – *Student-sangforeningen*, *OHS* and *Handelsstandens*. Almost at a moment’s notice, Behrens could stage a chorus of from 16 to 170 men, which on several occasions he did. On April 16, 1850, Behrens held a joint concert of these three choruses in Oslo. It was, incidentally, such a ‘mass chorus’ under the direction of Behrens that first performed *Ja, vi elsker*, Norway’s National Anthem, on May 17, 1864 in front of the Eidsvoll building and repeated the performance at the Palace Square in Oslo that same evening.

Not to be outdone, Conradi organized an outdoor *Sanger-fest* on *Bastøya*, an island in the Oslofjord, on August 25, 1864.

The era of *Sangerfest* in Norway had begun.

Den Første store Sangerfest (The First Great *Sangerfest*) was held on June 1, 1851, at Asker, west of Oslo, with the participation of the ‘*Three Great*’ Oslo choruses and two from Drammen – *Drammen Sangforening* and *Drammens Haandverkersangforening*. At the concert the participating five choruses and their 173 singers performed under the direction of Behrens.

The rivalry between Behrens and Conradi continued, and simultaneously with Behrens Asker festival, Conradi arranged a *Sangerfest* in the city of Tønsberg, with participation from Holmestrand, Larvik, Moss, Porsgrunn, Skien and Tønsberg.

(Continues on page 41...)



*BACK ROW: Erling Nyhammer, Sven Olsen, Phil Overlund, Doug Swenson, Chuck Hansen, David Boe.
FRONT ROW: Bjarne Anthonsen, Glen Hagen, David Krogh, Sig Stautland, Jerry Lysne, Gordon Jensen, Joyce Olsen.
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Singers' Saga...

(...continued from page 11)

The immediate success led to yet another 'Sangerfest', also led by Conradi, the following year, 1852, this time in Horton, with participation from Drammen, Holmestrand, Horten, Moss and Tønsberg.

The popularity and interest in the song festivals led to greater participation by choruses, singers, writers and composers. In 1863 the 5th Sangerfest in Bergen attracted 35 choruses and 528 singers.

In 1883 Trondheim hosted 28 choruses and 698 singers at a time when there was estimated to be approximately 200 choruses in Norway. Grieg's famous song "Sangerhilsen" (*Singers Greetings*) to the text of Sigvald Skavland was premiered by a 200-voice 'trønderkor' under the direction of Conradi. The song was an immediate success and it has since become a tradition that *Sangerhilsen* is sung by the *Sangerfest* host chorus greeting the visiting fellow singers, which eventually numbered in the thousands. Due to the staggering numbers of participants a trend to hold regional *Sangerfester* started in the 1950s making the arrangements more manageable.

NMC singing in the 'New World'

A mainstay in Norway's cultural life for many years, the male chorus very early gained respect and status throughout Norway. It is not surprising that the NMC also became a significant cultural institution in so many of the Norwegian communities throughout America. The size and the makeup of the community have something to do with whether or not a male chorus might appear or survive, but by far the most important ingredients are enthusiastic, qualified organizers and a strong leadership. There have been highly successful choruses in communities where the Norwegian element has not been particularly prominent and there have been less successful choruses in some of the larger Norwegian strongholds.

It appears that there already was a Norwegian Male Chorus in Chicago as early as 1858, and in the 1860s, choruses were organized in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. During the next decade, new choruses appeared in Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Iowa, Minnesota and Oregon. Within a 20-year period, traces of the Norwegian singers' movement could be found from New York to Oregon and numerous communities in between. In the 1880s, new choruses were started in Minnesota, New York, North Dakota, Illinois, California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Washington, Nebraska, Rhode Island and Wisconsin. South Dakota joined the ranks in the next decade.

The first Canadian chorus came in 1908, when the *Norwegian Glee Club* was organized in Winnipeg, Manitoba; Montana joined the movement in 1910. Utah's contribution to keep the tradition alive was Salt Lake City's *Voice of Norway* in 1913. The last state to take up the cause was Wyoming in the 1930s, when *Norden* was started in Casper.

A measure of the popularity is seen by the number of choruses formed throughout North America. To date 380 Norwegian male choruses have been identified, six in Canada, with the remaining 374 in the United States, distributed over twenty-three states and 154 cities.

West Coast

The first Norwegian male chorus on the West Coast was established in Portland, OR, in 1878. It took seven years, however, before a second West Coast chorus was formed, in San Francisco, CA, in 1885. Tacoma received its first chorus in 1888, Seattle joined the movement in 1889, the same year Washington became a State. Spokane came along in 1890, while Everett's first Norwegian male chorus was organized in 1902. *Normanna Male Chorus*, Oakland 1913, *Bellingham NMC* 1916, *Eugene Norsemen* 1958, *Salem Thorsmen* (1975), *San Diego Mannskor* 1993, *Nordisk Sangkor av Sacramento* 1998, *Skagit Valley Mannskor* 2000 and *Vestre Sund Mannskor* (Poulsbo) 2003.

The Norwegian Singing Society of Portland (*Nordmændenes Sangforening af Portland*), later known as the Norwegian Glee Club, had always been among the leaders on the Pacific Coast and it was on the initiative of one its members, Fredrik A. Tomte (1871-1937), that the Pacific Coast Norwegian Singers Association (PCNSA) was organized in 1902.

Every *Sangerfest* is "the best one ever." However, the 2005 Skagit Valley *Sangerfest*, celebrating Norway's centennial of independence and the 160th anniversary of *Oslo Hånd-verker Sangforening* "in perfect harmony" will certainly rate among "the best one ever."

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Oakland, California	Normanna Glee Club	1913
Poulsbo, Washington	Vestre Sund Mannskor	2003
Sacramento, California	Nordisk Sangkor of Sacramento	1998
Salem, Oregon	The Thorsmen Chorus	1975
San Diego, California	San Diego Mannskor	1993
San Francisco, California	Norwegian Singing Society	1885
Seattle, Washington	Norwegian Male Chorus	1889
Skagit Valley, Washington	Skagit Valley Mannskor	2000
Tacoma, Washington	Normanna Male Chorus	1888

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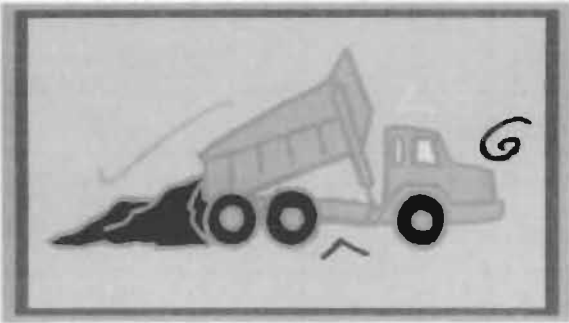
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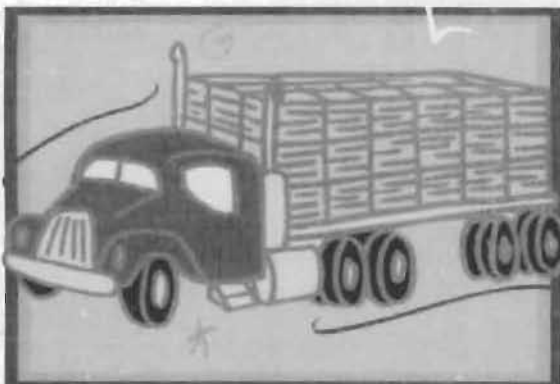
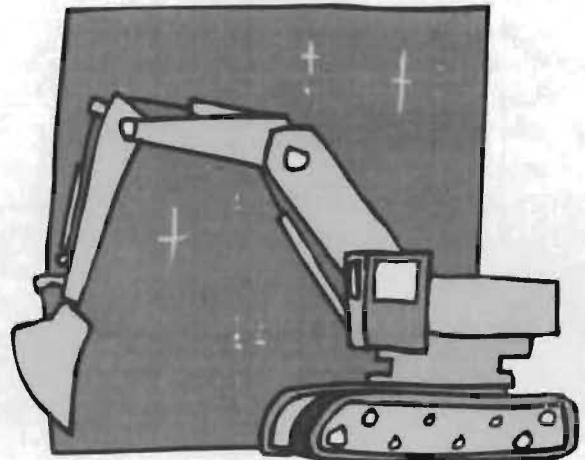
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Pacific Coast Norwegian Singers Association

Sangerfest Sites

1. Everett	1903	33. Grays Harbor	1941	65. Oakland	1974
2. Seattle	1904	34. Everett	1942	66. Seattle	1975
3. Portland	1905	35. Seattle	1944	67. Eugene	1976
4. Tacoma	1906	36. Tacoma	1945	68. Everett	1977
5. Astoria	1907	37. Portland	1946	69. Oakland	1978
6. Seattle	1909	38. Vancouver BC	1947	70. Salem	1979
7. Eureka	1910	39. Los Angeles	1948	71. Bellingham	1980
8. Everett	1912	40. Everett	1949	72. Seattle	1981
9. Spokane	1913	41. Oakland	1950	73. Tacoma	1982
10. San Francisco	1915	42. Seattle	1951	74. Eugene	1983
11. Bellingham	1916	43. Spokane	1952	75. Oakland	1984
12. Seattle	1917	44. Tacoma	1953	76. Everett	1985
13. Portland	1918	45. Portland	1954	77. Salem	1986
14. Tacoma	1919	46. Bellingham	1955	78. Los Angeles	1987
15. Grays Harbor	1920	47. Los Angeles	1956	79. Tacoma	1988
16. Astoria	1921	48. Vancouver BC	1957	80. Seattle	1989
17. Everett	1922	49. Everett	1958	81. Everett	1990
18. Edison-Bellingham	1923	50. Eugene	1959	82. Salem	1991
19. Seattle	1924	51. Seattle	1960	83. Sioux Falls	1992
20. Portland	1925	52. San Francisco	1961	84. Eugene	1993
21. Tacoma	1926	53. Salt Lake City	1962	85. Oakland	1994
22. Vancouver	1927	54. Tacoma	1963	86. Bellingham	1995
23. San Francisco	1928	55. Portland	1964	87. San Diego	1996
24. Astoria	1929	56. Oakland	1965	88. Tacoma	1997
25. Grays Harbor	1931	57. Bellingham	1966	89. Reno	1998
26. Everett	1933	58. Eugene	1967	90. Salem	1999
27. Vancouver	1934	59. Everett	1968	91. Seattle	2000
28. Bellingham	1935	60. Santa Monica/Los Angeles ..	1969	92. Eugene	2001
29. Seattle	1936	61. Seattle	1970	93. Everett	2002
30. Portland	1937	62. Tacoma	1971	94. Tacoma	2003
31. San Francisco	1939	63. San Francisco	1972	95. Salem	2004
32. Tacoma	1940	64. Vancouver BC	1973	96. Skagit	2005

Directors-In-Chief

Carlo A. Sperati	1902-1916	August Werner	1959-1974	PeterButler	1995-1996
Rudolph Moller	1916-1935	GunnarJ. Malmin	1975-1978	Dr. Jon Malmin	1996-1997
George S. Johnson	1935-1937	Alf L. Knudsen	1978-1981	Dr. Alf L. Knudsen	1997-1998
Monrad Malmin	1937-1939	Ed Amundsen	1981-1984	Peter Butler	1998-1999
George S. Johnson	1939-1940	Alf L. Knudsen	1985-1987	Dr. Alf L. Knudsen	1999-2000
August Werner	1940-1946	Jon Malmin	1988-1989	Peter Butler	2000-2001
Henry Ringman	1946-1950	Dr. Alf L. Knudsen	1989-1990	Steve Jensen	2001-2002
GunnarJ. Malmin	1950-1952	Dr. Jon Malmin	1990-1991	Dr. Jon Malmin	2002-2003
Henry Ringman	1952-1953	Peter Butler	1991-1992	Peter Butler	2003-2004
GunnarJ. Malmin	1953-1955	Steve Jensen	1992-1993	Steve Jensen	2004-2005
Monrad Malmin	1955-1957	Dr. Jon Malmin	1993-1994		
Henry Ringman	1957-1959	Steve Jensen	1994-1995		

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Jacobsen, Harold & Chirste	Spinney, Steve
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