

**SCANDINAVIAN FOLK ARTS AND CULTURAL TRADITIONS
IN THE UPPER MIDWEST**

ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS

2017/2018

ANDERSON, Justin, from Duluth, MN

Apprentice Justin Anderson and master shipwright John Finkle will travel to the Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde, Denmark, to study traditional hand-crafted, Scandinavian-style, lapstrake, clinker-built wooden boats. The project will feature monthly community workshops in Duluth before and after the research trip to communicate about and perpetuate the learning of traditional skills.



BLOOMQUIST, Pieper, from Grand Forks, ND

Master artist Pieper Bloomquist and her apprentice Molly McLain will study canvas painting and traditional decorative painting on furniture, folk traditions from Dalarna, Sweden. Upon their return, they will perpetuate these traditions through events in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.



CHRYSLER, Joshua, from Fort Collins, CO

Mr. Chrysler will conduct a survey of Scandinavian traditional arts and folklife in southeastern South Dakota. His project will result in 20-25 ethnographic interviews and documentation (audio recordings, photo documentation, field notes) that will assist the South Dakota Arts Council Traditional Arts Program to better serve the community with its Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program and Arts for Life artists-in-residence program.

HERKERT, Andrea, from Belleville, WI

Ms. Herkert will travel in Norway to boost her knowledge of rural artists, culture and history, while further developing her artistic skills to enhance her teaching and her painting. Her project includes working with master Rosemaling artists Turid Helle Fatland and Tove Ness.



HIRSCH, Jess, from Minneapolis, MN

Ms. Hirsch will study with master woodworker Beth Moen at the Sätergläntan Folk School to learn how to make hand carved bowls and also how to teach bowl carving. She will return home to share her new knowledge at Women's Woodshop, a studio space that trains women in woodworking skills.



LARSEN, Robert, from Brainerd, MN



Master Hardanger Fiddle Luthier Robert (Bud) Larsen and his two apprentices, Aaran Joneson and Craig Bjorland, will travel to Telemark, Norway, to study Hardanger fiddle building traditions by visiting collections in museums and private collections. They will also attend fiddling and dance competitions, while working with local fiddle builders. This project will strengthen the apprentices' knowledge of the culture and traditions of the Hardanger fiddle and help establish a connection between American and Norwegian luthiers.

MUSSER, Bill, from Decorah, IA

Otter Dreaming, a professional musician, piano instructor, composer, and conductor, will transcribe into standard notation the tune-books of Johan Arndt Mostad (1833-1909), a Norwegian immigrant who came from the community of Frosta in Trøndelag to Winneshiek County, Iowa, in 1869. The local traditional dance band Foot-Notes will then perform and record the previously lost music of Johan Arndt.

REBHOLZ, Karen, from Madison, WI

Ms. Rebholz will study sound adjustments done during the construction of Hardanger fiddles with Sigvald Rorlien, the director of the Hardanger fiddle building workshop at Ole Bull Akademiet in Voss, Norway. She will learn the intricacies of adjustments to the bass bar, bridge and rigging—skills not commonly understood by current US luthiers.



RENNAN, Arna, from Duluth, MN

Ms. Rennan will attend three major folk music gatherings in Scandinavia to interview young artists for her Nordic Roots Radio program. She will produce 20 new programs from these interviews, focusing on the trends among younger folk musicians and the spectrum between traditional folk and contemporary fusion.

SHAW, Amy, from St. Paul, MN

Ms. Shaw will prepare for publication an edition of a rare 1890s tunebook by Norwegian fiddler Ole Hendricks (1851-1935), who settled in western Minnesota. The 97-page manuscript is an important primary source for the study of traditional music and dance in the Scandinavian-American communities. The publication will include tune transcriptions and annotations; an introduction providing both biographical and historical context; illustrations; and a companion CD of a selection of the tunes, featuring master artists Vidor Skrede and Beth Rotto.

2017/2018 Award total: 10 Awards

2018/2019

AUNE, Alison, from Duluth, MN



Ms. Aune will research and study contemporary Swedish folk art painting in order to create a more informed and expanded body of work. After this study she will promote the appreciation and preservation of Swedish folk painting through community exhibitions, presentations, and workshops for all ages.

BENDER, Carol and RUCINSKI, Pamela from Wisconsin Rapids and Oshkosh, WI

Ms. Bender and Ms. Rucinski will travel to Sweden to broaden their painting skills by studying traditional materials and methods used for *Dalmålning* and *Rattvik* painting. They will also study the traditional folk-art paintings of Helsingland and *bonadasmålning* in southern Sweden.



EDGIN, Eric, from Duluth, MN

Mr. Edgin will visit the Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, Iowa, to examine their collections of coopered vessels. Using measurements and photos, he will make both the specialized tools needed for Scandinavian work methods and the vessels inspired by those that he handled. Edgin will then document the process and display the new vessels to inspire others to participate in this craft.



KEENAN, Karen, from Duluth, MN

Ms. Keenan's project involves reviving in the Midwest the once well-known Swedish traditional folk art of jewelry known as 'hairwork.' As an apprentice to Joanna Svensson, she will make traditional Swedish folk art table-constructed hairwork jewelry and bring this skill back to the Duluth region by teaching classes at Duluth's Nordic Center and other arts venues.



LAFLEUR, Robbie, from Minneapolis, MN

Ms. LaFleur will travel to Norway to focus on Norwegian *billedvev* (tapestry) to enhance her weaving practice and enrich her teaching. During a 19-day residency at *Frida Hansens Hus* in Stavanger, Norway, she will study the work of renowned weaver Frida Hansen. Upon her return, LaFleur plans to lecture at the Weavers Guild of Minnesota and Vesterheim, publish an article in the *Norwegian Textile Letter*, and add her newly learned techniques to specialty workshops for weavers, textile enthusiasts, and people interested in Norwegian cultural history.



LAHTI, Duane, from Iron River, WI

Mr. Lahti and his apprentice will restore the John Aho farmstead house, an 1890s pioneer house and example of Finnish-American vernacular architecture, recently moved to the Oulu Cultural and Heritage Center (OCHC). The apprentice will learn log building and historic structure renovation skills and thus perpetuate this traditional art form.



LUSK, Becky, from Coon Valley, WI

Ms. Lusk will travel to Skreia, Norway to participate in the study of Acanthus & Dragon Style Drawing and Design with master woodcarver, Arve Mosand. While there she will deepen her knowledge of the design elements of Acanthus and Dragon Style forms of relief carving.



NORMAN, Natalie, from Minneapolis, MN

Ms. Norman will participate in a two five-day embroidery course on *yllebroderi* and *pasom* at Saterglantan. Norman will also study embroidery samples at the Dalarnas Museum in Falun, Ottelia Adleborg Museum in Gagnef, and the Nordiska Museum in Stockholm to enhance her skills in traditional Swedish hand embroidery techniques. Upon her return, she will conduct workshops to encourage the perpetuation of traditional embroidery skills.



OLSON, Peter, from Chassell, MI

Mr. Olson will pass on the skills and knowledge of a lifetime working in the woods to apprentices Marjorie Miller, Matthew Durocher, and Arne Peltó. The apprentices will learn how to harvest wood and supplies and then to carve birds with wings and tail out of one piece of wood, as well as other crafts such as rocking man, weather stick, spoons, sauna ladle, whistle, sun symbols, baskets, and hay rakes.



PAJUNEN, Sara, from Gilbert, MN

Ms. Pajunen, an accomplished classical violinist and traditional fiddler, will study along-side Benedicte Maurseth and Knut Hamre, two of Norway's most celebrated fiddlers, immersing herself in Hardanger fiddle tradition. She will study the history of the tradition, the mechanics and style of the instrument and bow, and the various tune types.

PETERSON, William, from Canton, SD



Mr. Peterson will create a live television recording and webcast performing tunes from the repertoire of renowned Danish-American fiddler and button accordion player Dwight Lamb. The program will take place on Thursday, June 14, 2019, in the South Dakota Public Broadcasting studio in Sioux Falls, SD. The program will include fiddler Kristian Bugge, accordionist Mette Jensen Staerk and guitarist Morten Alfred Hoirup, as well as members of the Omaha Scandinavian dancers who will dance to these polkas, waltzes and schottisches.

PRYOR, Anne, from Madison, WI

Ms. Pryor will conduct ethnographic fieldwork documenting Scandinavian-American cultural practices in foodways and agriculture in Wisconsin. The research will be used by the Wisconsin Teachers of Local Culture (WTLC) to create resource materials for K-14 schoolteachers, librarians, and museum educators in 2020, helping to heighten the visibility of and perpetuate traditional practices.

RORVIG, Donald, from Stoughton, WI



Mr. Rorvig and his apprentice Rodger Hanson will create a historically accurate reproduction of the Oseberg Wagon, the original of which was excavated by archaeologists and is now found in the Viking Ship Museum in Oslo, Norway. Rorvig's project will perpetuate the Oseberg

Style (typical of Viking or Nordic art in the Ninth Century) in the United States. The Wagon will be available for viewing by the public at various times during its construction and upon completion will be part of public presentations on the history of the Oseberg Wagon and on the Oseberg Art Style at multiple locations around the Midwest.

SAWYER, Michael, from Saint Paul, MN

Mr. Sawyer will study, learn, transcribe, teach and archive the collections of Minnesota master fiddler Hilary Stoltman and his father, Walter Stoltman. The Upper Midwest Folk Fiddlers will then present the Stoltmans' work to the public through concerts, workshops, and websites.

SUTTER, Ross, from Minneapolis, MN

Mr. Sutter will study with master Swedish traditional singer Anders Larsson, focusing on unaccompanied song, particularly the Swedish form of lilting dance tunes called *trall*. Sutter will study in Sweden for 20 days in July 2019. Following his study, in September, he and Larsson will present songs at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis.

ZURAW, Clare, from Houghton, MI

Ms. Zuraw will deepen her skills in performing and teaching the *jouhikko* (the traditional Finnish bowed lyre) by traveling to Finland to participate in a series of private lessons with Helsinki-based master *jouhikko* player Ilkka Heinonen as well as other masters. She will return to Michigan to engage the community as a stronger teacher and more refined performer and broaden awareness of this ancient folk instrument in the United States.

2018/2019 Award total: 16 Awards

2019/2020

AUSTIN, Tara, from Duluth, MN



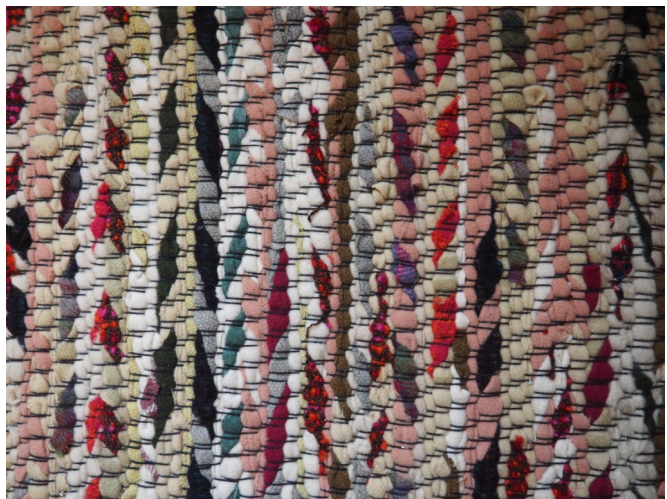
Austin will develop her skills in the Scandinavian folk arts tradition of rosemaling by conducting a 3-month research and study tour in Norway. During this trip, Austin will study the historical and cultural origins of rosemaling, its many regional styles and variations. Upon her return, she will share the tradition with the Duluth community through teaching workshops and exhibitions. Austin's work is part of a revival of rosemaling in the Upper Midwest; it builds upon the traditions while infusing them with contemporary reworkings that may ensure their relevance to new generations.

BUSNIEWSKI, Jason, from Milwaukee, WI

Busniewski seeks to revive the musical legacy and increase public awareness of Upper Midwestern old-time music by disseminating the music of Otto Rindlisbacher. From Rice Lake, Wisconsin, Rindlisbacher played not only his own native Swiss music but also a wide variety of Scandinavian and lumberjack music, touring on accordion with Norwegian-American bandleader Thorstein Skarning and mastering the playing and construction of the Hardanger fiddle. Busniewski will put Rindlisbacher's music for fiddle, hardanger fiddle, and button accordion into tune books and recordings to make it accessible to contemporary musicians and encourage its performance.

FREDENDALL, Phyllis, from Hancock, MI

Fredendall will finetune her traditional folk arts skills in Finnish weaving methods by undertaking a trip to Finland to research and practice *täkänä* ("Finn-pick double weave"), *ryijy*, (*rya*), and rag carpet weaving. Her trip to Finland will allow her to learn from existing Finnish weaving centers in communities that still practice traditional folk arts weaving methods and techniques. Fredendall's goal is to revitalize Finnish weaving in her own community by teaching weaving methods while continuing the weaving tradition herself. Fredendall hopes that this work will actualize a long-term dream of establishing a weaving center in Hancock.



MACKENZIE, Laura, from St. Paul, MN

MacKenzie will collaborate with former Scandinavian Folk Arts fellow Amy Shaw on reviving the Swedish folk music tradition of duet-flute performance in the Upper Midwest. In June 2020, MacKenzie and Shaw will go to Sweden to participate in a wooden flute training workshop run by Andreas Ralsgård and Markus Tullberg, two folk musicians who have revitalized the duet flute performance tradition. Following this workshop, MacKenzie and Shaw will attend various folk music gatherings in Sweden and finetune their own specializations in wooden flute-playing. MacKenzie will document their study of this folk music tradition with recordings and videos, which she will also share with Scandinavian-American music communities in Minnesota.

MARGERUM, Alice, from Hancock, MI



Margerum will foster knowledge of early traditional forms of Finnish stringed instrument construction by studying in Finland with the master luthier and scholar Dr. Rauno Nieminen, in Ikaalinen, and at the Pohjois-Karjalan kanteleleiri ja Soitinrakennuskurssi (North Karelian Kantele Camp and Instrument Making Course) in Joensuu. Following this study trip, Margerum anticipates building additional historically informed Finnish instruments; offering instrument-building workshops in the Midwest; continuing to collaborate with musicians in the U.P. of Michigan; examining and documenting two local nineteenth-century heritage viirsikannels for a future instrument-building workshop; and delivering lecture-recitals about some of these Finnish traditional instruments.

PAULSON, Jim, from Devils Lake, ND

An apprentice to Phil Odden, a master Norwegian-American woodcarver who has been creating ale bowls in the Upper Midwest for over 40 years, Paulson will perpetuate traditional carving skills by teaching introductory ale bowl carving. During his apprenticeship, Paulson will further develop his expertise in acanthus, dragon style, and chip carving. ASF support will provide the teaching resources, equipment and mentoring that Paulson needs to develop his skills as a teacher as well as an artist.



REBHOLZ, Karen, from Madison, WI



Rebholz will deepen her skills as a master Hardanger fiddle maker in a three-fold project: 1) completing the construction of a Hardanger fiddle in Madison, WI; 2) entering the Hardangerfiddle the national Landskappleiken 2020 competition; and 3) attending the event from June 24 to 28, 2020 in Rjukan, Norway. Rebholz's Hardanger fiddle design and building skills will be enhanced as a result of the direct feedback she will receive from the expert Norwegian judges. In addition, she will be able to meet and interact with all of the leading makers, musicians, and dancers in the Hardanger fiddle tradition in Norway. This will allow Rebholz to foster relationships between musicians and dancers in the US and those in Norway as well.

RENNAN, Arna, from Duluth, MN

Rennan will collect and learn songs, personal stories and folklore from Northern Gudbrandsdalen and will gather relevant folk material on four main topics: immigration, the "Cotter's farms", a "Shepherd's Life," and other living folklore beliefs. She will integrate the songs and stories into programs that will then be performed at libraries, schools, Sons of Norway lodges and Scandinavian Festivals in the Midwest.

ROTT, Beth, from Decorah, IA



Rott intends to sustain the wave of "new" old music in the Upper Midwest by performing pieces from ASF's recently transcribed tunebooks from Norwegian born fiddler, Johan Arndt Mostad (1833- 1909). She will identify tunes that will delight an audience and help tell the story of this musician, an immigrant to northeast Iowa, and his previously undocumented contribution to traditional music and dance. These tunes will be performed by the Scandinavian dance band Foot-Notes at Decorah's Nordic Fest on July 26, 2020.

2019/2020 Award total: 9 Awards

2020/2021

CARLSON, Jans, from Rapid City, SD



Mr. Carlson will cultivate his knowledge of carving Norwegian Kubbestol log chairs by pursuing an apprenticeship under master wood carver Philip Odden. Mr. Carlson will travel to Philip Odden's house in Northwestern Wisconsin to complete several traditional Norwegian Kubbestol pieces. Both Mr. Odden and Mr. Carlson have completed professional woodcarving training in Norway, and they look forward to collaborating on a process of sharing, perpetuating, and passing along the wood carving tradition of Kubbestol to future generations of craftsmen and artists.

DIERCKS, Olivia and Ellen Stanley, from Minneapolis, MN



Ms. Diercks and Ms. Stanley are part of an award-winning Minneapolis, MN-based string duo called The OK Factor. They intend to travel to Sweden in Summer 2021 to study Swedish Folk Music with Jærv. During their summer trip, The OK Factor will partner with and learn from Jærv to incorporate more Swedish music and history into their teaching and performance. Upon their return to the US, The OK Factor will share the folk music learned during their study tour with audiences in the Midwest.

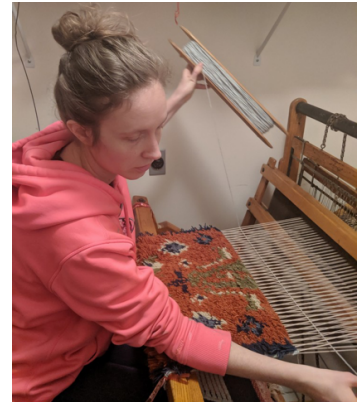
MANDY, Tonya, from Rapid City, SD

Ms. Mandy will deepen her knowledge of rosemaling by traveling to Strandvik, Norway, to work alongside contemporary rosemaler Anne Hesvik, who will teach both traditional and nontraditional color applications in rosemaling. Upon Ms. Mandy's return to the US, she will work with rosemaler Judith Kjensted in Minneapolis, where she will continue to share her acquired knowledge of color and pigments from Norway as well as build upon Ms. Kjensted's own expertise in the rosemaling tradition.



PURDIN, Sky, from West Fargo, ND

Ms. Purdin will develop her knowledge of Nordic weaving under the tutelage of three master artists: Annikki Marttila from Frederick, SD, Bruce Engebretson from Osage, MN, and Jeanine Ehnert from Frazee, MN. Building upon a long tradition of Finnish weavers in her family, Ms. Purdin will broaden her knowledge of Finnish weaving techniques by learning how to weave on pre-industrial looms as well as mastering historically preserved Nordic weaving styles such as “Skillbragd,” “Rosepath Inlay,” “Fransu,” “Pirtanauha,” and “Raanu.” After her fellowship, Ms. Purdin hopes to engage her community by teaching weaving and cultivating awareness of a variety of Nordic weaving styles.



SUTTER, Ross, from Minneapolis, MN



Mr. Sutter will host a six month-long series of online song workshops featuring six master Swedish singers: Anders Larsson, Cajsa Ekstav, Emma Härdelin, Ulrike Gunnarsson, Agneta Stolpe, and Eva Tjörnebo. Each of these online workshops will be streamed live as well as recorded for later viewing purposes. Mr. Sutter sees this as a unique opportunity to engage a wide audience while also cultivating knowledge of folk singing traditions and community.

SWENSON, Douglas, from Hawley, MN



Mr. Swenson will study under two master blacksmiths, Jeppe Garly and Mattias Helje, while visiting archaeological sites during a 22-day trip to Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. During this visit, he will study original iron implements and recreate forging items found during Viking Age Scandinavia. He is interested in recreating items associated with agricultural production during the Viking Age, which, for

Mr. Swenson, will include brazed livestock bells (i.e., for sheep and cow livestock) and scythe blades (one scythe blade for cutting hay and the other for harvesting much smaller grain such as barley and rye). Mr. Swenson intends to document his experiences abroad, improve his Viking Age blacksmithing, and communicate this knowledge with his local community through teaching and participation at special events such as the Midwest Viking Festival in Moorhead, MN, and Scandinavian Days in Thief River Falls, MN.

2020/2021 Award total: 6 Awards

2021/2022

Baird Carlson, Robin, from Kenmare, ND



Ms. Baird Carlson will apprentice with master artist Jeanine Ehner in Frazee, Minnesota, where she will learn how to create *hudteppe*, a skin blanket traditionally used as a Norwegian bed coverlet. The Norwegian *hudteppe* has a weaving mounted on the reverse side of the skin. Ms. Baird Carlson will first create two tapestries (60" x 65") and then attach them to furred buffalo hide using awls and hammers. While *hudteppe* is traditionally made with sheepskin, Ms. Baird Carlson will use a buffalo pelt because it is indigenous to the prairie region. Building upon nearly 30 years of experience in fiber arts, Ms. Baird Carlson has mastered a variety of Nordic weaving patterns including the Telemark Birth-to-Death tapestry as well as other patterns used for band weaving. After completing this project, she will continue teaching weaving in her community.

Bucheit, Liz, from Lanesboro, MN



Ms. Bucheit will travel to Norway, where she will both research and study Sámi silver work to broaden her knowledge of historic design, tools, and techniques unique to Sámi culture in Northern Norway. While in Norway, she will visit various cultural repositories and museums, as well as attend the Sámi Easter Festival to familiarize herself with both traditional and contemporary silver and jewelry-making practices. Building upon her own training as a silversmith specializing in traditional Norwegian *bunad* jewelry, Ms. Bucheit intends, upon her return, to teach classes in traditional Norwegian jewelry at the Vesterheim Folk School where she will also use her knowledge of Sámi jewelry-making practices to help broaden awareness of Sámi silver work and its place within the folk culture and traditions of Scandinavian ornament.

Carlson, Jans, from Rapid City, SD

Under the guidance of master wood carver Phillip Odden, Mr. Carlson will study the tradition of making Norwegian ale bowls. Mr. Carlson will travel to northwestern Wisconsin to study with Mr. Odden, from whom he will learn about the complexity of Norwegian ale bowls and how to refine his craft. Building upon his family's lineage of Scandinavian woodcarvers, Mr. Carlson hopes to cultivate, preserve, and pass on his knowledge of traditional Norwegian woodcarving and folk art by offering classes and demonstrations at local venues in South Dakota.



Livesay, Fred, from Saint Paul, MN



Mr. Livesay will travel to Finland, Norway, and Sweden to research and master the practice of *knutkorg* making. *Knutkorg* is a Scandinavian knot basket constructed from willow and split cedar and woven together via a complex interlocking of bent and notched pieces of the prepared wood. While in Scandinavia, Mr. Livesay will visit museums and other venues and study under master *knutkorg* maker, Göran Andersson. Building upon 39 years of blacksmithing, birch bark and willow basket making, and wood spoon carving, Mr. Livesay is committed to teaching and promoting Scandinavian handcrafts upon his return to the United States. His vision for this project is to give *knutkorgar* a modern context and to share his knowledge of it with the vibrant craft communities of Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin.

Raisanen, Noah, from Dassel, MN



Mr. Raisanen will study traditional craftsmanship of Scandinavian style knives and tools with a focus on Finnish *puukko* smithing. A *puukko* is a traditional belt sheath knife and was used in Scandinavia to support a variety of tasks such as wood carving, food processing, or weapon carrying. Training with two master artists in the Upper Midwest—Jamiah Mahoney from Herbster, Wisconsin, and Paige Richard from Finland, Minnesota—Mr. Raisanen will learn more about forging blades and making handles and sheaths. His goal is to expand his skillset and knowledge of *puukko* smithing to restore and perpetuate *puukko* and other Scandinavian knife and tool craftsmanship in the Upper Midwest for younger generations via storytelling, social media channels, and workshops.

Sharratt, Anna, from Minneapolis, MN

Ms. Sharratt will travel to Sweden where she will immerse herself in the Swedish approach to youth *slöjd* pedagogy and instruction. *Slöjd* refers to Scandinavian “handcraft,” which includes wood and metal working as well as fiber and textiles; *slöjd* pedagogy refers to the craft curriculum taught both for educational and vocational purposes starting with children as young as 7. To this day, *slöjd* remains a core education in Sweden both in public schools and cultural centers. By acquiring hands-on training in *slöjd* instruction via *slöjd* instructor training courses and regional *slöjd* programs, Ms. Sharratt hopes to transmit what she learns in Sweden to practitioners in Minnesota in order to create a strong foundation for long-lasting youth *slöjd* programming in the Upper Midwest.



Vaughan, Renee, from Woodbury, MN



To deepen her knowledge of and skill with playing traditional Swedish music for folk dancers, Ms. Vaughan will study with master *nyckelharpist* Cajsa Ekstav both remotely and in Uppland, Sweden. While there, Ms. Vaughan will also play for dancers at two folk festivals, Bingsjöstämman and Östbjörkastämman. Upon her return, Ms. Vaughan

will share her knowledge of Swedish folk music by playing for local Scandinavian social dancers and groups, leading workshops for musicians in traditional Scandinavian folk music, and increasing local and rural community interest and participation in both the traditional Scandinavian folk arts of music and dance.

2021/2022 Award total: 7 Awards

2022/2023

BENDER, CAROL
FROM—Wisconsin Rapids, WI



Ms. Bender will travel to Sweden—namely, Dalarna, Värmland, Hälsingland, and Jämtland provinces—with Pamela Rucinski to research traditional furniture painting from the 18th and 19th centuries. Their research on Swedish painted vernacular furniture will build upon their prior studies of Norwegian (*Gubrandsdal rosemålning*) and Swedish (*Bonads*, *Dalmåleri*, and *Drickamålning*) painting traditions. Upon their return, they plan to teach about Swedish folk art painting with interested groups in the Swedish Vasa Order of America, the Sons of Norway, and other cultural centers, fairs, and heritage camps.

BLOOMQUIST, PIEPER
FROM—Grand Forks, ND



Ms. Bloomquist will travel to Unnaryds Bonadsmuseum in Sweden, where she will participate in workshops, field trips, and an international conference on *bonadsmålning* or Swedish figurative painting on linen. During her month-long stay, she will create a painting for display at the museum and instruct the museum's folk school in the use of traditional animal glue paint called *limfärg*. Upon her return, Ms. Bloomquist will share her knowledge of *bonadsmålning* in workshops, public presentations, lectures, classes, and community projects. Ms. Bloomquist was a North Dakota Individual Artist Fellow in 2021 and a Folk Artist Fellow with

the American-Scandinavian Foundation in 2018. She is currently a Master artist in the North Dakota Council on the Arts Traditional Folk Arts Grant program and a regular instructor at the American Swedish Institute and North House Folk School.

KEOBOUNPHENG, TIA
FROM—Minneapolis, MN



Ms. Keobounpheng will travel to Vaasa, Finland, to work with master himmelist, Eija Koski. *Himmeli* are traditional Finnish holiday decorations made from strung-together straw that is then tied into elaborate geometric sculptures and hung from ceilings above dining tables from Christmas to Midsummer. While working with Eija Koski, Ms. Keobounpheng intends to gain a deeper understanding of the history and traditional process of creating *himmeli* from rye harvests. After returning to Minneapolis, Ms. Keobounpheng will explore local sourcing options for rye stalks that she can later harvest and craft into *himmeli*. To help disseminate this folk tradition, Ms. Keobounpheng will create a tutorial on *himmeli* making and teach *himmeli* classes with arts and cultural institutions in her local area.

NOVOTNY, CHRISTINE
FROM—Grand Marais, MN



Ms. Novotny will travel to Stockholm, Sweden, where she will study *röllakan* style rugs with Swedish master rug weaver Ulla Parkdal. *Röllakan* is a Swedish tapestry technique which uses geometric and organic patterning to make tapestry style rugs. While in Sweden, Ms. Novotny will also observe how the weaving industry continues to operate despite ongoing industrial textile production. Ms. Novotny recently completed a residency in handweaving with North House Folk School. Upon her return to Minnesota, Ms. Novotny will incorporate *röllakan* weaving within her work as a floor loom weaver and teach the technique at folk arts schools in the Upper Midwest, including North House Folk School and Vesterheim Folk Art School.

PRADT, SARAH
FROM—Saint Paul, MN



A teacher of Hardanger-fiddle playing (*hardingfele* in Norwegian) at St. Olaf College and a member of the Twin Cities Hardingfelelag (TCHFL) in Minneapolis and Saint Paul, Professor Pradt will meet with hardingfele ensembles in Norway (namely Viken, Telemark, and Vestland) that continue the tradition of playing for a collective dancing group. Professor Pradt will study regional variations in the use of bowing and thematic variations within the dance group, the employment of multiple voices in the ensemble, and the dynamics of acculturating new members into the group. Her project, entitled “Hardanger Fiddle Ensembles: Growing, Sustaining, and Playing for Dance,” will culminate in multiple opportunities for sharing and teaching the Hardanger fiddle art form with her community of local fiddlers, ensembles, and St. Olaf College fiddle students.

RUCINSKI, PAMELA
FROM—Oshkosh, WI



Please see the project description for Carol Bender.

SERSLAND, CAROL
FROM—Minneapolis, MN

Building upon a family legacy of Norwegian folk dancing and lifelong cultivation of folk dance and songs of Telemark, Norway, Ms. Sersland is interested in expanding otherwise dwindling communities of folk dancers in the Upper Midwest. For her project, she will travel to Norway to study how Norwegian participation in Nordic dance has been increasing over the years. While there, she will attend music and dance workshops by Seljord Folk Music Group, Vinje Culture School, and Gransherad Fiddle and Dance Group that specifically target young participants. In particular, she is interested in the instructors' approaches and techniques as well as group leaders' notes on what dance means to the participants. Ms. Sersland would like to formulate ways to apply Norwegian recruitment methods and outreach strategies to folk dance groups in the Upper Midwest to help amplify and preserve this folk tradition for all generations.

WIITALA, LISA
FROM—Hancock, MI



Ms. Wiitala will travel to Finland to work with master *ryijy* weaver Suvi Kankkonen. *Ryijy* is a textile made by knotting together bundles of yarn along warp strings that produces a shaggy pile rug or wall hanging. Ms. Wiitala learned to weave using her grandmother's carpet loom and was introduced to *ryijy* and *soumak* weaving methods due to her interest in using recycled materials from her grandmother's belongings. In this way, Ms. Wiitala likes to think of her weaving as bringing together the past and present, her Finnish heritage and her American upbringing in Hancock. Apart from studying under Suvi Kankkonen, Ms. Wiitala will also visit the Craft Museum of Finland, the Finnish National Gallery, and Friends of Finnish Handcraft, among others, to study traditional and contemporary Finnish textile designs. Upon her return, Ms. Wiitala plans to teach a workshop through the Finnish American Folk School alongside additional teaching and community events.

2022/2023 Award total: 8 Awards

2023/2024

BRABENDER DEREK
FROM—Stoughton, WI



Derek Brabender will apprentice with Jarrod Dahl to learn the craft of constructing pole lathes—foot-powered woodworking tools used in the shaping of traditional Scandinavian bowls. During his year-long apprenticeship, Brabender plans to build four pole lathes, which he will also document vis-à-vis a series of social media posts and videos. By recording the construction process of springpole lathes, Brabender intends to revitalize this folk craft, making the craft more accessible to the general public and increasing awareness of the significance of pole lathe bowl turning in Scandinavian Folk Art.

CHATMAN, LIESL
FROM—Minneapolis, MN



In October 2024, Liesl Chatman will travel to Norway and Sweden to study and explore the social history and technical evolution of kolrosing, a decorative Scandinavian folk art made by cutting lines into wood surfaces and filling the lines with pigment. While abroad, Chatman will see various open-air museums and folk schools to ameliorate her knowledge of kolrosing, and upon her return, she intends to share her mastery with local folk schools, museums, and craft gatherings.

DAHL, JARROD
FROM—Ashland, WI

Already a well-established woodworker and craftsman, Jarrod Dahl plans to go to Norway and Sweden to learn more about crafting traditional Scandinavian baskets. While abroad, Dahl will study with famed Norwegian basket maker Hege Aasdal and visit museums and other basket makers invested in preserving and documenting traditional basketry techniques. Upon his return, Dahl will share his knowledge of this craft at the Folk School and at other local venues.



GROVEN, KJETIL
FROM—Rapid City, SD



Already a skilled blacksmith, Kjetil Groven intends to further his study of *pjaal/skav* during his summer in Norway and Sweden. *Pjaal*, as it is known in Norway, or, *skav*, as it is known in Sweden, is a woodworking tool forged specially to quickly remove and smooth the surface of wood. During his summer abroad, Groven will work with specialized blacksmith toolmakers, namely Jon Dalmo and Roald Renmælmo of Norway and Patrik Järefjell of Sweden. While in Norway, he will also have opportunities to visit *pjaal* collections at local museums. Upon his return, Groven hopes to share his knowledge not only through continued teaching but also through training younger blacksmiths and engaging with local blacksmithing communities.

KEENAN, KAREN
FROM—Duluth, MN



An ASF 2018 Folk Arts Fellow, Karen Keenan will begin a project entitled “Reviving, Expanding, and Sustaining Traditional Swedish Hairwork Artistry in the Midwest.” Hairwork as a Scandinavian folk art was practiced by Swedish women as far back as the 1700s and early 1800s in Våmhus, where hair was woven, corded, or made into heirloom jewelry such as brooches, bracelets, necklaces, crowns, or earrings. To advance her expertise in hairwork, Keenan will apprentice with master hairworkers Helen Martis and Erika Borbos-Rindvall and visit hairwork collections at the Nordisk

Museet in Sweden. Upon her return, Keenan hopes to continue sharing her craft with local teaching venues as well as the annual Lake Superior 20/20 Studio and Art Tour.

KRAUS, BETH
FROM—Minneapolis, MN

Beth Kraus will study how to make traditional Danish and Swedish woven baskets, which are typically made of willow or other regional materials. To build these traditional baskets and shape and bend handles, rims, feet, and skids implementing raw materials that are both self-harvested and processed, Kraus will apprentice with Steen Madsen of Ringsted, Denmark, and Beth Moen of Dalarna, Sweden. Upon returning, Kraus will integrate her nuanced knowledge of birch wood crafts with her own teaching and workshop-led programs in surrounding local communities.



SANDERS, LAUREL
FROM—Duluth, MN



Laurel Sanders and her daughter Giizh (Sarah) Agaton Howes, a renowned Ojibwe craftswoman, plan to travel to Norway, where they will study bandweaving, not only in terms of employable techniques, but also in terms of its history and place in Ojibwe, Sami, and Scandinavian cultures. To better contextualize and understand band weaving—a method of weaving narrow strips of fabric to use as decorative jewelry or belts, among others—Sanders and Howes’ trip to Norway will include taking courses at the Rauland Folk Academy in Telemark, meeting with band weavers, and visiting textile museum collections. Upon their return, they will share their knowledge of band weaving with local communities through presentations and exhibits at various venues including the Duluth Nordic Center and Sami Cultural Center of North America.

VITALE-SULLIVAN, CAITLIN
FROM—Madison, WI

In 2024, Caitlin Vitale-Sullivan plans to study Icelandic vocal traditions while training under two renowned Scandinavian folk musicians: Bára Grimsdóttir and Chris Foster. In particular, she is interested in studying two Icelandic song types—Icelandic *tvísöngur* and *kvæði*. Icelandic *tvísöngur* is a polyphonic singing type in which two singers sing in parallel; is usually in the form of ballads, but with harmonies. Vitale-Sullivan’s trip to Iceland will provide hands-on experience in teaching methods used in the Icelandic music community. Upon her return, she hopes to not only share her knowledge of Nordic folk song with her community through singing classes and folk music workshops, but to also use different teaching methods to increase awareness and interest in traditional Scandinavian folk music.

2023/2024 Award total: 8 Awards

2024-2025

Aune, Alison, from Duluth, MN



In June 2025, 2018 ASF Folk Artist Fellow Alison Aune will travel to Sweden to embark on a new project, “Minnesota-Swedish Folk Painting: Then and Now.” During her two-week stay, she will study traditional and contemporary Swedish folk painting techniques with esteemed folk artists Åse Larsjos, Pernilla Nordstrom, and Britt Marie Nilsson. Upon her return to Minnesota, Ms. Aune plans to preserve and promote the art forms of *sydsvenskt bonadsmålneri* and *dalmålning* through exhibitions and workshops in Duluth and Minneapolis.

Flanders, Sue, from Mora, MN



Sue Flanders will deepen her expertise in *skinnfell*, a traditional Norwegian folk craft that involves sewing and decorating sheepskin blankets. Traveling to Norway, she will study under master artisans Britt Solheim and Stina Marie Rognes Solheim. Upon her return, Ms. Flanders will co-present introductory classes and demonstrations with 2024 ASF Artist Fellow Rebecca Utecht (see project description below) at venues such as the Sons of Norway in Isle, Avon Hills Folk School, Kanabec County Art Association, the American Swedish Institute, and Vesterheim.

Keobounpheng, Tia, from Minneapolis, MN

Tia Keobounpheng, a 2022 ASF Folk Artist Fellow, will continue her exploration of traditional and contemporary Sámi *duodji*—a craft that preserves sacred cultural knowledge. Her project, “*Duodji: Generational Tradition*,” includes traveling to Vettasjärvi, Sweden, to work with Sámi *duodjar* Lennert. To preserve her *duodji* experience, she will document the crafting process in an art film created with her son Silo. Upon returning, Ms. Keobounpheng will showcase her art film at the American Swedish Institute in February 2026, coinciding with the ASF exhibition *Nordic Echoes: Tradition in Contemporary Art*.



Klein, Thomas, from St. Paul, MN



Thomas Klein will travel to Sweden to advance his knowledge of *säckpipa* (Swedish bagpipe) and the Swedish cittern, a 10-stringed Renaissance instrument used in Scandinavian ensembles. While in Sweden, he will study under the master musician Jonas Åkerlund and participate in events such as the annual *säckpipa* gathering in Gagnef and the Tobaksspinnarstämman Festival in Nås. On returning, Mr. Klein plans to share his knowledge of the Scandinavian folk music tradition through school programs and workshops.

Linden, Paul, from St. Paul, MN



Paul Linden will expand his practice of *slöjd*, a Scandinavian handicraft tradition emphasizing educational models that utilize tools, materials, and the local environment. In Sweden, he will study cooperage (staved wooden containers) with woodworker Beth Moen and blacksmithing with Hans Karlsson. Returning to Minnesota, Mr. Linden plans to teach Swedish cooperage at the North House Folk School, ensuring that this Scandinavian folk craft tradition is passed on to future generations.

Nesseth, Clifton, from Duluth, MN

As Director of the Duluth-Stämman Nordic Music & Dance Festival (DS), Clifton Nesseth will travel to Sweden with 2024 ASF Folk Artist Fellow Paul Sauvey (see his project description below) to attend the Korrö Music Festival (KMF). Together they will study the festival's youth programs as models for fostering Scandinavian craft and music education at Duluth Stämman. Mr. Nesseth aims to adapt these approaches to inspire and support young musicians in preserving Scandinavian-American music and dance traditions.

Odalen, Nancy, from Stoughton, WI



Nancy Odalen and her apprentice Ella Beckler will travel to Norway to refine their skills in *rosemaling*, a traditional Norwegian decorative painting style. Under the guidance of local Norwegian folk artists, they will enhance their craft and foster connections with the Norwegian rosemaling community. Upon their return, Ms. Odalen and Ms. Beckler will teach courses and present at the Livsreise Heritage Center, aiming to inspire a new generation of Midwest rosemalers.

Pajunen, Sara, from Duluth, MN

A 2018 ASF Folk Artist Fellow, Sara Pajunen will travel to Lund, Sweden, to study traditional Swedish folk music with master fiddler Mats Edén. While there, she will learn Edén's repertoire by ear, study historical recordings from the region, and record music sessions with Edén. Upon her return, Ms. Pajunen intends to teach local workshops and courses to continue the generational transfer of Swedish folk music traditions.

Peltoniemi, Kip, from New York Mills, MN

Kip Peltoniemi will delve into Minnesota's Finnish musical heritage specific to the "Finnish Triangle," through his project "Early Rural Finnish Music in Minnesota's Finnish Triangle." To understand the regionally specific origins of these Finnish songs and ballads, Mr. Peltoniemi will travel to Finland to study *Perho* fiddling traditions and *Tornio* ballads in Finland with folk musicians such as Ritva Talvitie, Katril Haukilahit, and Arto Järvelä. Upon his return, Mr. Peltoniemi will adapt these songs for the 5-button accordion and reintroduce this music through concerts, workshops, school programs, and online content.

Peterson, Sonja, from Minneapolis, MN

In August 2025, Sonja Peterson will travel to Denmark to enhance her expertise in psaligraphy—the Danish tradition of papercutting. While in Denmark, Ms. Peterson will attend workshops on small-scale psaligraphy in the Gaekkebrev tradition and visit exhibitions on traditional and contemporary papercutting techniques at the Odense Museum and the Papir Kunst Museum. Upon her return, Ms. Peterson will lead workshops on psaligraphy and showcase her work in exhibitions across the Midwest, sharing the art of traditional and modern papercutting.



Rog, Sophia, from Decorah, IA



During her apprenticeship with Beth Rotto, Sophia Rog will study a repertoire of Scandinavian American fiddle tunes from Northeast Iowa and Southeast Minnesota. To further expand her knowledge of Scandinavian American tunes, Ms. Rog will also study the history of the tunes and the stories of the local fiddlers who shaped these traditions. At the end of her apprenticeship, Ms. Rog will perform with Ms. Rotto's band Foot-Notes for a community dance at the Highlandville School House.

Sauey, Paul, from Minneapolis, MN

Along with his fellow 2024 ASF Folk Arts Fellow Clifton Nesseth (see project description above), Paul Sauey will travel to Sweden to study Nordic guitar traditions with leading folk musicians. During his tour of regions in Sweden, he will study with a variety of Swedish folk musicians, including Roger Tollroth, Anders Larsson, Mattias Pérez, Magnus Gustafsson, Thomas Limpan Lindberg, Sebastian Block, Ale Moller, Olle Lindvall, Daniel Ek, and Ale Carr. At the end of his stay, Mr. Sauey will showcase these regional styles at the Korro Festival, and, upon his return, he will perform and host workshops to promote Nordic guitar traditions in the US.

Seppala, Kay, from Houghton, MI



As Director of Kivajat Children's Finnish American Folk Dance Group, Kay Seppala plans to expand her knowledge of traditional Finnish dance by traveling to Turku, Finland, where she will study at Turan Kansantanssin Ystävät (TKY), a folk dance association. While studying at TKY, Ms. Seppala will observe dance sessions, record dance videos, formalize choreography and instructions, and learn more about Finnish folk-style couple dancing. Upon her return, she will enrich her dancers' repertoire and share Finnish folk dance traditions, through performances, dance festivals, and workshops at various local venues.

Utecht, Rebecca, from Ogilvie, MN



Along with 2024 ASF Folk Artist Fellow Sue Flanders (see project description above), Rebecca Utecht will travel to Rauland, Norway, to study advanced *skinnfell* —a traditional Norwegian folk craft that involves sewing and decorating sheepskin blankets. While studying under Norwegian *skinnfellers* Stina Marie Rognes Solheim and Britt Solheim, Ms. Utecht will examine methods for integrating handweaving with *skinnfell*. Upon returning, Ms. Utecht will share her expertise through teaching courses and showcasing her work at regional folk schools and festivals.

2024/2025 Award total: 14 Awards