

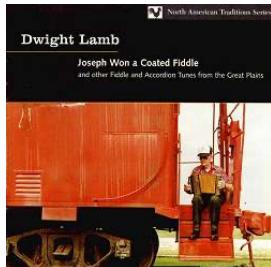


# AMERICAN- SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION

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

### PUBLIC PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY PROJECTS 2017/2018

#### Cris Anderson Productions, Minneapolis, MN



In support of an independent public television documentary about 83-year-old Danish-American master fiddler and button accordion player, Dwight Lamb.

#### Folklore Village, Dodgeville, WI

In support of a series of summer hands-on workshops that highlight Scandinavian traditional arts at the Folk School at Folklore Village.



#### Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah, IA



In support of creating a Scandinavian Handcraft Club for Kids that will teach the basics of rosemaling and weaving based upon the success of the model established by Vesterheim's Whitling Klubb.

#### The Cedar Cultural Center, Inc., Minneapolis, MN

In support of the participation of Swedish folk rockers Høven Drøven at The Cedar's three-day 10th Annual Global Roots Festival. Høven Drøven will also lead at least one educational activity, workshop, or discussion in the local Somali community each day during the festival.



#### 2017/2018 Award Total: 4 Awards

## 2018/2019

### Arts Midwest, Minneapolis, MN



In support of the participation of Norwegian musician Unni Boksasp and her ensemble at the 2019 *Arts Midwest World Fest*. The ensemble will conduct week-long residencies in Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin; Dubuque, Iowa; Red Wing, Minnesota; Pierre, South Dakota; and Dickinson, North Dakota.

### Dawson-Boyd Arts Association, Dawson, MN

In support of artists' fees and travel expenses for *Scandinavian Folk Music Infusion!*, a series of workshops and performances of Scandinavian and Scandinavian-American traditional folk music for elementary and high school music students as well as for adults and senior residents in rural western Minnesota.

### Finlandia University Finnish & Nordic Studies Program, Hancock, MI

In support of *Pelkie: A Century of Finnishness in the American Northwoods*, a documentary film project detailing the folklife and history of Pelkie, a Finnish-American farming and logging community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.



### Museum of Danish America, Decorah, IA

In support of Nordic-American Culinary Arts: Documentation and Video Project, which will document traditional Nordic culinary arts within the Nordic-American communities of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The documentation will be available in Nordic archives in the region and will also be incorporated into a traveling exhibition.

### Nisswa Stämman, Brainerd, MN

In support of *Nisswa Stämman 20th Anniversary Nordic Folk Artist's Workshops*, a series of workshops celebrating, augmenting, and preserving Nordic traditional music and dance in which nine tradition-bearers from the Nordic countries and four U.S. masters will teach two two-hour workshops.



**Wisconsin Teachers of Local Culture c/o Folklore Village, Madison, WI**



In support of *Scandinavian Folk Arts in the K-12 Classroom*, a one-day professional development workshop that will introduce educators to Scandinavian-American traditional artists, offering insights on the cultural life of their communities and providing tools for identifying and integrating local culture resources into their curricula.

**2018/2019 Award Total: 6 Awards**

**2019/2020**

**ASI Lilla Spelmanslag, Minneapolis, MN**

ASI Lilla Spelmanslag will promote traditional Swedish folk music through a variety of folk music exchanges that will take place both in Minnesota and in the Swedish provinces of Skåne, Småland, and Dalarna. The intent of these exchanges is to strengthen the youth "Lilla lag" fiddle-playing program and to share this type of Swedish folk music vis-à-vis public performances and concerts with local communities in Minnesota.



**Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah, IA**

Vesterheim will pilot a new and robust intergenerational program using three different platforms: free hands-on programming geared toward families one Saturday per month; a series of four 2 to 3-hour family folk art workshops; and an intergenerational family folk art camp in August.

### **New York Mills Arts Retreat (dba New York Mills Regional Cultural Center), New York Mills, MN**



New York Mills Regional Cultural Center will sponsor a week-long residency for Kardemimmit, a four-woman Finnish ensemble who sing and play the kantele, the Finnish national instrument. The residency will encourage broad public awareness and understanding of traditional Finnish culture, heritage, and skills through music and dance and will involve the New York Mills and Menahga public schools and Finn Creek Museum as well as a number of senior centers and will culminate in a public performance.

### **Cedar Cultural Center, Minneapolis, MN**

As part of the 12th Annual Global Roots Festival scheduled for September 21-23, 2020, the Cedar Cultural Center will feature Tuuletar, a vocal performance group consisting of four women from Finland who incorporate beatbox rhythms into traditional folk songs. The group is proud to be pioneering a new musical genre called “Vocal Folk Hop.” The Cedar will pair Tuuletar with local Hmong-American hip hop artist and community activist, Tou Saiko Lee. Lee will host the group at community events and encourage Hmong communities in Minneapolis and Saint Paul to take part in musical exchanges.

### **Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI**

In August 2020, the Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) will host a public celebration of the Upper Midwest’s rich Scandinavian heritage in conjunction with its forthcoming exhibition “Scandinavian Design and the United States, 1890-1980.” MAM’s three-day Scandinavian Festival will represent traditions of each Nordic country as they are practiced in the Upper Midwest and immerse audiences of all ages in authentic Scandinavian art, food, and culture.

### **2019/2020 Award Total: 5 Awards**

## 2020/2021

### **Dalesburg Midsummer Festival, Vermillion, SD**



The Dalesburg Midsummer Festival has a 150-year tradition of celebrating Scandinavian and rural heritage in southeast South Dakota. This year they will bring together the Dalesburg Spelmanslag and Jærv, a music group from Sweden. With attendees from four states, the Festival helps build folk arts community networks, heritage celebration, and community engagement.

### **Daneville Heritage Museum, Viborg, SD**

The Daneville Heritage Museum proposes to develop a series of educational and community programs focusing on Scandinavian heritage and culture. Programs would include workshops on cultural practices such as traditional Scandinavian cooking and sewing, where participants will be invited to showcase their culinary and folk costume designs at the museum's monthly potluck and folk dancing celebration, as well as "Scavenger Hunt Book Club," featuring Danish and Scandinavian books for school-age children, in the Viborg area. The Daneville Heritage Museum will also create a video series from these programs that can be shared and disseminated online (i.e., on YouTube or the museum's Facebook page) and provide the opportunity for cultural enrichment in the community and surrounding local area.

### **Midwest Institute of Scandinavian Culture, Inc. (Norden Folk), Eau Claire, WI**



The Tour of Traditions at the 48<sup>th</sup> annual Wahlstrom Nordic Workshop will be held from February 19-21, 2021, at Beaver Creek Nature Preserve near Fall Creek, Wisconsin. This annual workshop will give at least 20 students the opportunity to engage hands-on with Nordic folk art traditions, such as rosemaling and flat-plane wood carving. All Nordic folk arts workshops will be taught over a weekend by master folk artists in the region and will create a space for students to experiment with folk art traditions and build community through shared interests in the Nordic languages and folk arts. The goal of this workshop is to foster a budding curiosity and understanding of traditional folk arts while also giving students the skills to continue folk art traditions in their own home communities.

### **Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn, IA**

The Museum of Danish America will stream their traditional Danish midsummer Sankt Hans Aften celebration, held on June 23, to both onsite and online audiences. The goal of this community project is to keep Sankt Hans Aften a relevant tradition in the contemporary lives of community members in the Midwest as well as a broad audience of Danish-Americans interested in participating and celebrating Danish culture and traditions.

### **Norskedalen Nature & Heritage Center, Coon Valley, WI**

Norskedalen will provide virtual educational programming and videos for folk arts within their heritage-class offerings. Online courses and workshops will include various folk arts traditions, such as Hardanger, needlework, baking, lefse, and rosemaling. It is the goal of Norskedalen to encourage the passing of folk arts skills from one generation to the next. Doing so through an online platform will allow generations to collaborate in virtual learning and in-person mentoring critical to the preservation and cultivation of traditional culture.

### **St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Devils Lake, ND**

St. Olaf Lutheran Church will offer a series of workshops to teach introductory ale bowl carving to youth and adults. This community project will involve participants with strong ethnic ties to Norway, Sweden, and Finland, and build upon Nordic traditions of folk arts bowl carving that foster community building. This project will focus upon three different audiences: 5<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents; 7-9<sup>th</sup> graders; and the communities of Devils Lake, Lakota, and Leeds, each of which have strong Nordic roots. Pastor Paulson sees these folk arts workshops as critical to perpetuating and celebrating community life.

### **Swedish Heritage Society Foundation, Swedesburg, IA**

The Swedish Heritage Society Foundation will host the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Swedish-American Museum in a 2-day intergenerational event held in June 2021. The celebration will include a variety of events and workshops that showcase traditional Scandinavian (mostly Swedish) culture. Events will include performances from a Swedish band (TBD) and other Swedish folk music groups as well as demonstrations of Swedish folk art, folk music instruments, cooking, dancing, weaving, and heritage-tracing workshops. This 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration intends to draw an audience of 200-400, engage the community of the Swedesburg Commercial Historical District, and perpetuate the cultivation of Swedish folk culture and tradition.

**2020/2021 Award Total: 7 Awards**

## 2021/2022

### **Buxton in Bloom/ Grue Church Project, Buxton, ND**



The Grue Church Project in partnership with Buxton in Bloom will embark on a year-long program of classes, workshops, and events on traditional Scandinavian artisanry. Examples of Scandinavian programming will include *Hardanger* fiddle holiday performances, *Fraktur* calligraphy, *Bonadsmålning* oral history, painting classes, collaborative Norwegian woodcarving, and Swedish iron cross metalsmithing. The goal is to honor traditional skillsets while adapting them to be

inclusive for both rural and urban audiences. The year-long programming will culminate in three permanent installations that will endure beyond the year. These installations will include a *Bonadsmålning* community foyer painting, a wood-carved collaborative door lintel, and a Swedish iron cross signage kiosk.

### **Finnish American Folk School and Finnish American Heritage Center, Hancock, MI**



The Finnish American Folk School (FAFS) at Finlandia University would like to increase its range of folk school programs, with a particular focus on fiber arts workshops at its studio at the Jutila Center. To implement specialized programming, such as traditional Finnish folk music performances and fiber arts workshops, and to expand its audiences, the Finnish American Folk School will pilot a part time

assistant director position to help manage outreach and marketing as well as social media. Such a funded position will be held by ASF's 2018 Folk Arts Artist Fellow, Clare Zuraw, and will help support the development and sustainability of programming at the Finnish American Folk School.

### **Folklore Village Farm, Inc, Dodgeville, WI**



Folklore Village will have Dalakopa, a 9-member Scandinavian band, perform locally from April 1-17, 2022. Dalakopa is an international group of musicians from 4 countries—Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and the United States—known for its traditional repertoire of Scandinavian folk music, which includes adapted folk music from Røros and Østerdalen. For Folklore Village, this performance will celebrate a time of reunion with the band, since Dalakopa performed at Folklore Village in the early 1990s.

## **Midnight Sun Singers, Nordic Center of Duluth, Duluth, MN**



Midnight Sun Singers will be a female choir for treble voices, specifically performing traditional Scandinavian folk arrangements and modern Nordic pieces. Building on Scandinavian choral traditions, this group will connect local singers with community folk music experts, bring Scandinavian choral music to the Northern Midwest Region, and make Scandinavian choral music available to audiences during the summer months when most choirs are on hiatus. Guest artists

will include ASF's 2017 & 2019 Folk Arts Artist Fellow Arna Rennan as well as Paul & Marikay Dahlin, alongside other folk music experts from the community. The goal of the creation of this female choir is to perpetuate the love of Nordic traditions in the community through repertoires that highlight Scandinavian folk and choral traditions.

### **2021/2022 Award Total: 4 Awards**

### **2022/2023**

## **Finlandia Foundation Twin Cities, Boys of America Northfield, MN**



Finlandia Foundation will sponsor a musical tour of Boys of America (*Ameriikan Pojat*), a Finnish American brass septet. The Boys of America will tour the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the homestead of many Finnish immigrants and their descendants and, over the course of the tour, they will perform in a variety of locations in the region, including Aura Town Hall, Mass City Hall, and retirement centers. Performances will include repertoires specifically written for Finnish septets by Leevi Madetoja, Toivo Kuula, and Jean Sibelius, and will

end with Finnish folk dancing music. Through their performances, Finnish American folk music will be shared and bolstered for a variety of generations and groups.

## **FinnFest 2023 Duluth, MN**

FinnFest 2023's folk arts component will include Nordic folk artists, public folklorists, and filmmakers in a celebration modeled after the Smithsonian Institution's folklife festival. Through a variety of panel discussions, concerts, film screenings, plays, exhibits, local tours, and workshops, among other programs, this festival will showcase Finnish, Finnish American, Sámi, pan-Nordic, and Upper Midwestern cultural traditions that demonstrate the dynamic nature of folk arts. FinnFest 2023 will take place from July 26-30 in the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC).

**Ironwood Theatre, Inc.  
Ironwood, MI**



Ironwood Theatre will produce a Fall 2023 program entitled “*Kantele Juhla*: Old Traditions and New Innovations,” a festival showcasing the Finnish *kantele* from its creation to its mastery. During this festival, there will be public recitals and concerts with the *kantele* and educational workshops on playing and building the *kantele*. By incorporating K-12 programming for Hurley and Ironwood area schools alongside performances, this four-day festival will encourage the appreciation of Finnish community identity and reintroduce

the *kantele*, a lap harp that is still taught in many Finnish schools, to multiple generations in the Ironwood community.

**North House Folk School**

**Grand Marais, MN**



To celebrate the Sätergläntan Craft Institute’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, North House Folk School will partner with ASI and Sätergläntan on a variety of programming to advance awareness and appreciation of the practice of traditional Nordic handicrafts in the Upper Midwest. This grant will support the participation of Nordic folk artists in North House’s four-day session of immersive traditional craft courses. Covering specialized intermediate and advanced skills, the Sätergläntan folk artists will help cover skills that are hard to find in the US and further Nordic handicraft education. Additional program components will include the Sätergläntan delegation’s traveling to the Nordic Center in Duluth to connect with the Scandinavian community there, a series of three webinars, and an American delegation traveling to Sätergläntan in Sweden.

**West Denmark Heritage Council  
FROM—Barron, WI**

Haugaard’s West Denmark Fiddle School will bring a cello instructor from Scandinavia to participate in the 2023 Fiddle School. In direct response to the growing number of pupils interested in playing the cello, pupils at Haugaard’s West Denmark Fiddle School showcase their work in two public performances that bring Danish and other Nordic and Scottish music to the local community. Because Haugaard and other instructors introduce the historical background and geographical context of the music performed, these two public performances provide the local community with Danish musical and cultural traditions, which connect the participants to the people in and around the area of Luck, Wisconsin.

**2022/2023 Award Total: 5 Awards**

## 2023/2024

### **American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, MN**

The American-Swedish Institute (ASI) will bring performers to the annual Midwinter Folk Fest, a longstanding, annual program on Scandinavian folk music. From March 2-3, ASI will bring to the Cedar Cultural Center various workshops, performances, and demonstrations by a variety of performers, including Stina Fagertun, Helena Hallberg, Ross Sutter, and two Nordic folkway speakers. The goal of this event is to foster an interactive folk music experience for local audiences—both young and old—and promote an ongoing appreciation of the Scandinavian folk music tradition.

### **Cedar Cultural Center, Minneapolis, MN**

For its 2024 Cedar's Nordic Series, the Cedar Cultural Center will present quarterly Scandinavian performances, which will be accompanied by daytime educational workshops for K-12 audiences within the Minneapolis school district. Performances by Ánnámáret, Kardemimmit, Symbio, and Northern Resonance will draw together audiences of to celebrate and appreciate Nordic folk music and culture in Minnesota.

### **Finlandia Foundation, Hancock, MI**

Finlandia Foundation will continue cultural programming at the Finnish-American Folk School (FAFS) in Hancock, Michigan. The program will include 5 days of presentations from pan-Nordic folk artists along with musical performances, weaving workshops, language instruction, and larger events, such as the Midsummer *Jouhikko* Gathering and the Finnish Independence Day Celebration. These events will provide opportunities for audiences in Michigan's Upper Peninsula to learn and engage with American-Nordic folk traditions and programs.

### **FinnFest, Minneapolis, MN**

FinnFest 2024 will engage Nordic folk arts performers, artists, and academics in the folk arts section of the festival. The 2024 program, entitled "Nordic Conversations with the Natural World," will feature Sofia Jannok, Llona Korhonen, Michael Loukinen, among others, to showcase a smörgåsbord of Finnish, Finnish American, Sámi, pan-Nordic, and Upper Midwestern folk traditions. FinnFest 2024 will be held from July 25-27 at the Duluth Entertainment & Convention Center.

### **Nordic Center of Duluth, Duluth, MN**

Building on the concept of *stämma* as a gathering of folk musicians and dancers, the 2024 Duluth-*stämman* aims to promote Nordic community-driven traditions through jam circles, workshops, youth programs, and dances accompanied to traditional American-Nordic music. Performers will include Kristian Bugge & Sonnich, Sebastian Block & Kevin Henderson, Sara Pajunen, Laurel Premo, Zosha Warpeha, Lynx Lynx, and 18 Midwest Ensembles. The 2024 Duluth-*stämman* will be held from June 7-8.

### **North Country Fiber Fair, Brookings, SD**

The North Country Fiber Fair (NCFF) will bring Natalie Norman as the featured teacher for the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the fair, which will take place in Watertown, SD, from September 20-22, 2024. Natalie Norman is a 2019 ASF Folk Artist Fellow, and for this three-day fair, she will provide a public lecture and teach classes on traditional Swedish embroidery styles and techniques for bags and *kjolväskor* (skirt purses). In collaboration with local museums and libraries, NCFF aims to gather residents of the Dakotas who identify with Scandinavian heritage and traditional arts.



### **Sverdrup #107 Sons of Norway Lodge Bismarck, ND**

Sverdrup Lodge—in partnership with Northern Plains Heritage Foundation (NPHF)—will provide cultural heritage programming during a month-long Northern Plains Winterfest, which will be held within the Northern Plains Heritage Area in January 2024. Sverdrup Lodge's cultural and educational programs will focus on Scandinavian folk arts and traditions associated with winter and bring folk artists together to celebrate winter activities, including public ice sculpture demonstrations, Hardanger fiddle performances, and kicksled relays.

### **Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum Decorah, IA**

Vesterheim's project "Hand Me Down the Fiddle" will consist of an exhibition on Hardanger and flat fiddles, accompanied by online fiddle music programming and workshops. It will feature prominent Norwegian fiddlers and tune collectors actively involved in sharing and perpetuating endangered tunes for Norwegian-American communities in the Upper Midwest alongside dances, performances, and workshops to connect audiences to the context and practice of Norwegian folk music.

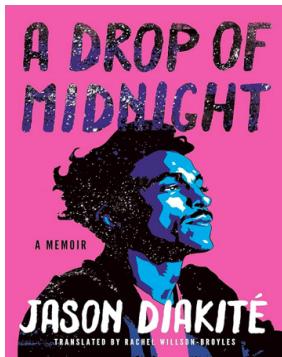
### **Washington Island Scandinavian Fest Dancers Washington Island, WI**

Organized as a community heritage dancing group since 1949, Washington Island Scandinavian Fest Dancers provide opportunities for dancers from preschool to community elders to participate in celebrating Scandinavian heritage via dance. From June 21-28, Washington Island Scandinavian Fest Dancers will bring 30 teen and adult dancers to the Valdres region of Norway to learn and experience the cultural context and tradition of folk dancing. Upon their return, dancers will perform at the Trueblood Performing Arts Center and share their learning with the local community.

**2023/2024 Award Total: 9 Awards**

## 2024-2025

### American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, MN



The American Swedish Institute (ASI) is seeking support to host *A Drop of Midnight*, an autobiographical musical by Swedish rapper and author Jason "Timbuktu" Diakité. This musical production explores the themes of identity, belonging, and cultural heritage while highlighting the intersections of Swedish hip-hop with traditional folk music. Scheduled for April 2025, Mr. Diakité will take part in ASI's Story Swap program, a week-long initiative connecting him with immigrant youth at Wellstone International High School through workshops and performances rooted in cultural traditions.

### Gogebic Range Health Foundation/Saint Maud's, Ironwood, MI

In partnership with Gogebic Range Health Foundation, St. Maud's seeks funding for a *slöjd* (handcraft education) program. Piloted by Karl Zinsmaster, recipient of the 2023 Educator of the Year and Ironwood Chamber of Commerce's Gus Swanson Education Award, this program will offer nine classes per week for 5 17-year-olds living in Iron County, WI, or Gogebic County, MI. By serving K-12 audiences at local school systems, home-schooling groups, and other youth church and social groups, this *slöjd* program aims to provide practical skills and craft education for underserved communities to preserve and transfer Nordic folk traditions in trades, crafts, and arts to the next generation.



### Great River School Foundation, St. Paul, MN



Great River School (GRS), a public Montessori charter school in St. Paul, MN, is requesting funding for a year-long teaching artist residency to introduce students to traditional Scandinavian *slöjd*—a form of educational handcraft. This residency will provide handcraft experiences for students grades 1-12, teachers, and families through direct instruction, internships, curriculum development, professional training, and community workshops. Serving as a pilot program, the project aims to inspire a broader pedagogical movement in the Upper Midwest by demonstrating how traditional handcraft can enrich modern public education, even in today's digital era.

**2024/2025 Award Total: 3 Awards**