AUSS

AMERICAN UNION OF SWEDISH SINGERS NATIONAL CONVENTION



CHICAGO HILTON AND TOWERS • JULY 23-26

CHICAGO 1986



Välkommen!

Welcome to Chicago and the 94th Anniversary Convention of the American Union of Swedish Singers. We as members of the Chicago Swedish Glee Club, the Chicago Swedish Male Chorus and Ladies Auxiliaries have put many days and months into the preparation of this sångarfest. Now it's yours to enjoy.

Our fondest wish is that you will return home with happy memories to last a lifetime!

Your Convention Committee

DAN OLCH, *Chairman*
HANS BOLLING, *Vice Chairman*
RICHARD YOUNG, *Vice Chairman*
RON ERICKSON, *Recording Secretary*
RICHARD JOHNSTON, *Corresponding Secretary*
EVERT WERNER, *Treasurer*

LADIES AUXILIARY

JUNE BOLINDER, *President*
HARRIET BOLLING, *Vice President*
BRITTA SEABERG, *Secretary*
ANN-MARIE JOHNSTON, *Treasurer*



SEATED: Lucille Severson, "Max" Schmidt, Britta Seaberg, June Bolinder, Harriet Bolling, Emily Menicucci, Irma Larson, Ingrid Persson, Ruth Johnson

STANDING: Hans Bolling, T. Ralph Anderson, James Ryan, Pehr Bolling, Robert Fredrickson, Carlton Severson, Ron Erickson, Donald Lamont, James Olson, Claude Frey, Orlando Menicucci, Art Strobeck, Richard Young, Bertil Bohrnell, Gunnar Seaberg, Dan Olch

Not pictured: Martin Ahlm, Eric Bolinder, Jim Doyle, Dick Goddard, Richard Johnson, Richard Johnston, Bill Jones, Edward Kelley, George Lilly, Eugene Pellegrini, Karl Persson, Ted Probst, Karl Schmidt, Evert Werner, Edith Anderson, Ann-Marie Johnston, Betty Lindberg, Mary Olson, Greta Ramberg, Eedee Werner.

Your 1986 Convention Schedule At the Chicago Hilton Hotel & Towers And The Auditorium Theater July 23-26

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please wear your convention badge at all times and bring with you to the various events the appropriate tickets or coupons (from the Registration Kit).

Wednesday, July 23		
All Day	Convention Registration.	
8:30 p.m.	Welcome program by the host choruses, Chicago Swedish Glee Club and Chicago Swedish Male Chorus. Coffee and coffee cake served afterwards by the Convention Committee.	Grand Ballroom
Thursday, July 24		
All Day	Convention Registration.	
9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Men's Grand Concert rehearsal.	Grand Ballroom
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Women's Grand Concert rehearsal.	Waldorf Room, Third Floor
11:30 a,m. to 2 p.m.	Women's Luncheon.	International Ballroom
Afternoon	Reherasals by individual choruses, rooms to be assigned by availability of space and pianos.	
8 p.m.	Individual Chorus Concert.	Grand Ballroom
Friday, July 25		
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Men's Luncheon.	Grand Ballroom
1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Women's rehearsal and joint rehearsal.	Auditorium Theater
2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Men's rehearsal and joint rehearsal.	Auditorium Theater
8:00 p.m.	Grand Concert.	Auditorium Theater
Saturday, July 26		
9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Delegates Meeting.	Waldorf Room, Third Floor
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Directors Meeting.	Williford Suite B, Third Floor
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Delegates Luncheon.	Joliet Room, Third Floor
6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	"No Host" Social Hour.	Grand Ballroom Foyer
7:30 p.m.	Banquet.	Grand Ballroom

Throughout the Convention, please check the bulletin board at the Hospitality Desk, should there be any unexpected changes in scheduling.

Chicago *your kind of town*

Yes, Chicago is "your kind of town" . . . first because of the warm welcome all visitors receive here, but more importantly because you are either a Swede or a Swedish singer.

By the time of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, Chicago had gained a reputation as Sweden's North American capital and it continued to retain this status well into the Twentieth Century. Also it was in the clubhouse of the Chicago Swedish Glee Club that the AUSS was formed, on November 24, 1892.

Over the years Chicago has hosted six previous national AUSS conventions, including two at World's Fairs—the Columbian Exposition in 1893 and the Century of Progress in 1933. The most recent of Chicago's AUSS conventions was in 1966.

Much of what made Chicago an outstanding convention site for the AUSS 20 years ago remains in place, but neither has the city fallen behind the parade of progress.

State Street is still that same great street for shopping that it was in 1966, except that it has now been converted to a mall open only to limited public transportation. Also, State Street now has a rival, the elegant stores and shops of Water Tower Place, on North Michigan Avenue, just beyond Chicago's famous landmark, the Water Tower.

It was quite easy to decide on the Water Tower as the symbol for this convention; it was the most prominent structure to remain relatively unscathed within the area of the fire in 1871. Since that time, it has stoically resisted change while major alterations in Chicago's skyline have occured all around it.

Right next to Water Tower Place is one of Chicago's several new skyscrapers, the John Hancock Building. On the west edge of Chicago's Loop and occupying a full city block is the equally imposing Sears Tower.

Chicago's China Town, just south of the Loop, continues to thrive, along with many relatively new entries in the area of ethnic dining, particularly French and Italian. However, from Swedish to Serbian to Syrian, there is a fine restaurant to match your ethnic tastes somewhere in Chicago.

Twenty years ago, the Picasso Sculpture outside the Daley Civic Center was new and the first of its kind. It has now been joined in the Loop and near-Loop area by the outside and out-size art contributions of Chagall, Miro and Calder. If you will look in front of the Social Security Building, just west of the Loop, you will see Claes Oldenberg's Batcolumn. Oldenberg's father was Sweden's Counsel General in Chicago at the time of the 1954 AUSS convention.

Chicago's Loop, of course, refers to the rectangle in the downtown area formed by the elevated train tracks. It consists of a five block by seven block area bounded by Van Buren Street on the south, Wabash on the east, Lake Street on the north and Wells Street on the west.

The beauty of Chicago's lakefront is timeless and its scenic surface can be easily viewed from the Chicago Hilton and Towers. Also still in place, after 20 years, are such world famous institutions as the Museum of Science and Industry, the Field Museum, the Shedd Aquarium, the Adler Planetarium and the Chicago Art Institute. The last four are relatively near the headquarters hotel.

There is the expression that if you can't find it in Chicago, you can't find it anywhere. This even includes a small piece of masonry taken from Sweden's Royal Castle (Stockholms Slott) and incorporated with bits from other famous structures around the globe into the ground level exterior of the Chicago Tribune Tower, just north of the river on Michigan Avenue.

With so much to see, there are a number of desirable sightseeing tours available. More information on these or anything else special you would like to find while in Chicago is available from the Convention's Hospitality Desk. No "reasonable request" will be refused.

The Convention Committee and the Hospitality Desk, as its name implies, want to do all within their power to make your stay here enjoyable . . . to make Chicago "your kind of town!"

Harold Washington
Mayor

CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

April 15, 1986

American Union of Swedish Singers

Dear Members, Family and Friends:

As Mayor of the City of Chicago, as well as personally, I am very pleased to extend a cordial welcome to the AMERICAN UNION OF SWEDISH SINGERS on the occasion of your 1986 convention.

Chicago is proud of its reputation as "Convention Capital of the Nation." We are quite confident that the unparalleled facilities of our city will enhance the success of your meeting bringing about the maximum in attendance.

During the few moments available to you during your business and choral sessions, please be assured that there are many regular and special events in the city for your mutual enjoyment and interest.

We hope your group will return to Chicago many times in the future.

Sincerely,

Harold Washington

MAYOR



STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD 62706

JAMES R. THOMPSON
GOVERNOR

July 23, 1986

To the American Union of Swedish Singers:

As Governor of Illinois, I am delighted to welcome you to Chicago on the 94th Anniversary of your organization. Since I am the first Governor in Illinois' history to be of Swedish descent and Swedish American of the Year for 1985, this is a special pleasure for me.

For nearly a century the members of A.U.S.S. have helped to preserve our Swedish heritage in our native song. This is a beautiful legacy for all Swedish-Americans, and one that I hope is continued for generations to come.

On behalf of the more than 11 1/2 million people of Illinois, please accept my sincere best wishes for a wonderful convention and my very best to all of you for the continued success of A.U.S.S.

Sincerely,

James R. Thompson
GOVERNOR



EMBASSY OF SWEDEN
THE AMBASSADOR

Washington 2 June 1986

American Union of Swedish Singers
245 W. Denver Drive
Des Plaines, Il. 60018

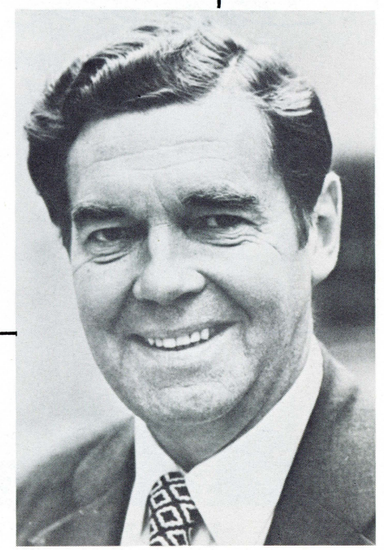
Sweden is proud of its many choirs and we are happy that there are so many people in the United States who continue to carry on this tradition. I have personally had the opportunity on many occasions to listen to Swedish choir music in this country as well and enjoy the high level of standard.

Choir music is not only a way to perform music but it is also a way to preserve the Swedish heritage. I appreciate very much that you are spreading Swedish culture in this beautiful way.

I wish to extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to the Swedish and American Singers on the occasion of the National Convention 1986.

W Wachtmeister

600 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, NW, SUITE 1200, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20037 TEL. (202)



AUSS

American Union of Swedish Singers

Organized November 25, 1892
Choruses in the United States and Canada: Eastern, Central and Western Divisions

In this era of constant change, all of us can take a full measure of pride in what this 94th Anniversary Convention represents. There are very few of today's institutions or organizations that have withstood the passage of time as well as the AUSS.

We are still singing the songs, and carrying on the language and traditions of those Swedish immigrants who started the AUSS right here in Chicago in 1892. Of course, nothing worthwhile comes easy, and this continuation of the AUSS as a vibrant organization has been possible only through your dedication and hard work.

All of the national officers and board members join me in saluting the Chicago host committees and their members. It is their untiring efforts that have made this Convention a reality. But, perhaps even more important, we want to express our appreciation to all of you who have traveled so many miles to add your voice to the luster of our Grand Concert!

Med varmaste sångarhälsingar,

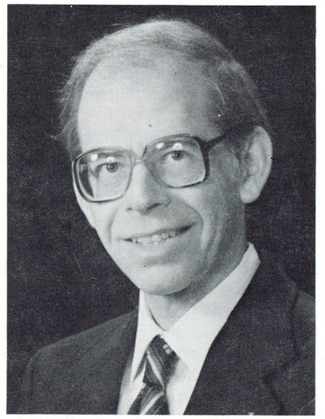
Dan Olch

Dan Olch, President
American Union of Swedish Singers





PHILIP ANDERSON
Vice President



FRED FORTNEY
Secretary

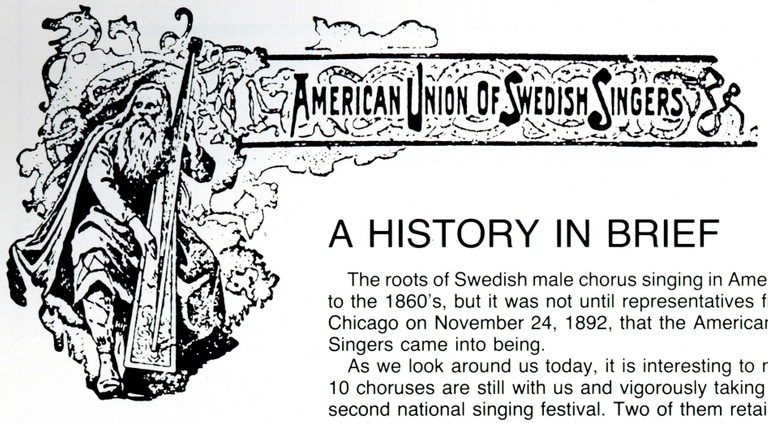


BERTHA ISACKSON
Treasurer

AUSS OFFICERS



GUNNAR NORDSTROM
Financial Secretary



A HISTORY IN BRIEF

The roots of Swedish male chorus singing in America can be traced back to the 1860's, but it was not until representatives from 10 choruses met in Chicago on November 24, 1892, that the American Union of Swedish Singers came into being.

As we look around us today, it is interesting to note that three of these 10 choruses are still with us and vigorously taking part in this, our twenty-second national singing festival. Two of them retain their original names, the Chicago Swedish Glee Club and Sveas Söner Singing Society of Rockford, while the Vega Singing Society of St. Paul has long been known as the St. Paul Swedish Male Chorus.

The AUSS' very first national singing festival was held almost immediately, at Chicago's Columbian World's Fair in 1893. Fourteen choruses participated in a series of Grand Concerts held over three days. The three soloists were from Stockholm's Royal Opera company, and audiences of up to 10,000 hailed the performances with great enthusiasm.

This was the very first Swedish singing festival ever held . . . on American or Swedish soil.

The second national sångarfest was held in New York City in 1897, followed by the appearance of the first of what we now term division conventions, at Worcester, MA, and Rockford, IL, in 1899. The Western Division, then known as the United Swedish Singers, held its first convention in Portland in 1905.

According to the painstaking research of Gunnar Bloom, late and beloved editor of Musiktidning, at least 225 choruses have represented 90 cities throughout the U.S. and Canada over these 94 years. Some choruses were located in such out-of-the-way places as Williamson County, TX; Negaunee, MI; Batavia, IL; Hoquiam, WA, and Red River Valley, MN. A few had unusual names, such as the Amaryllis Male Chorus of Hartford, the Neptune Singing Club of Gardner, MA, the Olive Male Chorus of Moline, IL, and the Zephyr Singing Club of Chicago.

Chicago, in fact, holds the distinction of having been the base for 27 AUSS choruses through the years.

The AUSS' high tide was 1920 when the organization consisted of 56 choruses with a membership of 1,133 singers.

In 1926 singers traveled to the national convention in New York City, via Washington, DC. Their mission in the nation's capital was to help dedicate a monument to the memory of John Ericsson, great Swedish-American inventor of Civil War times, but they also posed for a picture on the White House lawn with President Calvin Coolidge. So many singers are in the picture that it is literally impossible to count the white singers' caps.

As emigration from Sweden to North America dwindled during the Depression years and again after the early 1950's, a very important event for the AUSS was the founding of the Swedish Women's Chorus of Seattle in 1951. In 1978 this group became the AUSS' first women's chorus, but was quickly followed by the Scandia Women's Chorus of Detroit and the Scandia Ladies Chorus of Portland. Now, since the 1982 Convention in Seattle we have four new women's choruses in the Eastern Division.

With the important addition of these women's choruses, there are now 27 active choruses with over 600 members singing under the AUSS banner. With such strength in our ranks, we can look forward to many more sångarfests and many more choruses of Glad såsom fågeln into the wee hours of the morning.

NATIONAL CONVENTION SITES...

1893	Chicago, IL	1946	St. Paul, MN
1897	New York, NY	1950	New York, NY
1901	Jamestown, NY	1954	Chicago, IL
1905	Chicago, IL	1958	Salt Lake City, UT
1910	New York, NY	1962	Providence, RI
1914	Minneapolis, MN	1966	Chicago, IL
1920	Worcester, MA	1970	San Francisco, CA
1924	Chicago, IL	1974	Minneapolis, MN
1926	New York, NY	1978	Bridgeport, CT
1928	Rockford, IL	1982	Seattle, WA
1933	Chicago, IL	1986	Chicago, IL
1938	Philadelphia, PA		

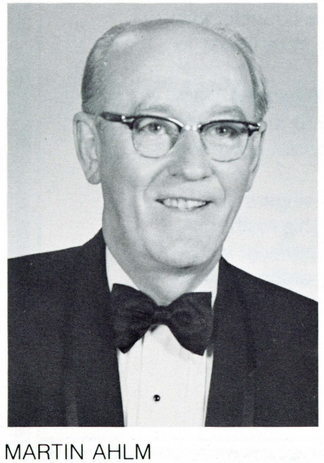
PRESIDENTS THROUGH THE YEARS . . .

Magnus Olson • Chicago, IL	1892-1893
Charles K. Johansen • New York, NY	1893-1897
E. T. Holmes • Brooklyn, NY	1897-1899
John Winnberg • Jamestown, NY	1899-1901
Olof F. Nelson • Chicago, IL	1901-1905
Charles K. Johansen • New York, NY	1905-1910
Hjalmar Nilsson • Minneapolis, MN	1910-1914
George N. Jeppson • Worcester, MA	1914-1920
Hjalmar Nilsson • Minneapolis, MN	1920-1924
Fred Bolling, Sr. • Chicago, IL	1924-1933
John Hellberg • New York, NY	1933-1946
Edward E. Johnson • Chicago, IL	1946-1950
Arthur O. Samuelson • Woodbridge, CT	1950-1954
Gustaf E. Rickan • Chicago, IL	1954-1962
Erland Levine • Fairfield, CT	1962-1966
Martin Ahlm • Chicago, IL	1966-1970
Henry Granat • Portland, OR	1970-1974
Carl E. Anderson • Chicago, IL	1974-1978
Lars G. Sundman • Bridgeport, CT	1978-1982
Dan Olch • Chicago, IL	1982-1986



ERLAND LEVINE

HONORARY PRESIDENTS IN OUR RANKS . . .



MARTIN AHLM



CARL E. ANDERSON



HENRY GRANAT

SWEDISH AMERICAN MUSEUM

This archival record has been partially scanned, including covers and initial pages for each issue. For more information about a particular issue of this publication, please contact the Swedish American Museum Curator.

1886



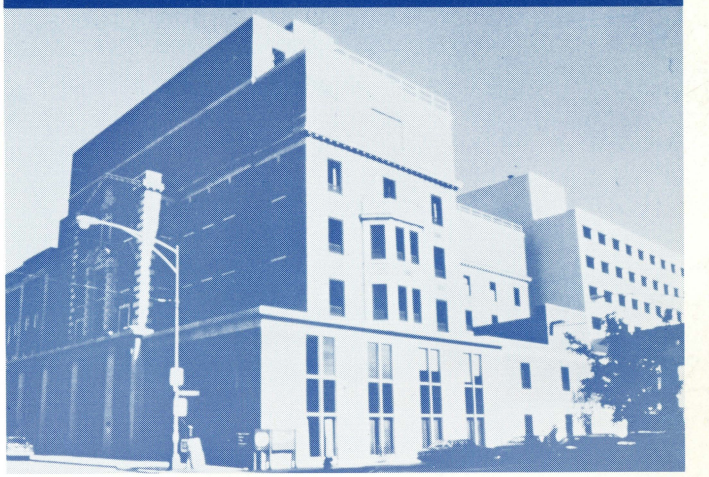
After listening to the pleas of a city missonary, Henry Palmblad, the Evangelical Covenant Church at its first annual meeting in 1885 voted to found a Home of Mercy in Chicago. The home was to be a refuge for sick and homeless immigrants. Property with a small frame building was purchased in the Bowmanville area for $5500. An additional $1700 was raised for equipment and remodeling, and the Home opened its doors in the spring of 1886.

Swedish Covenant Hospital

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

of Service to the Community

1986



In 1986 Swedish Covenant Hospital, a 355-bed facility, stands on the same site. Beside longtime residents, the hospital still serves many persons in its service area who are newcomers to this country. Approximately 10,000 inpatients and 52,000 outpatients are treated annually. The hospital offers an extensive list of services using state of the art treatment, and it enters its second century, planning many innovative ways of continung to serve the community.

Swedish Covenant Hospital
5145 North California
Chicago, Illinois 60625
878-8200

GOOD LUCK A.U.S.S. in Your 94th Year!