

Chicago's Svithiod Hits the 100 Mark

By MILTON N. STROM

Sunday, May 16, found 425 friends of Svithiod filling Chicago's North Park College Chapel and eager to hear the chorus that has for 100 years thrilled its listeners with spring concerts of tonal and technical excellence. They were not disappointed.

The chorus was led by John A. Carlson, Jr., and Assistant Director Bernhardt L. Mendro, and accompanied at the piano by Blanche Strom Nordberg and Milton N. Strom. The program included favorites requested by members and friends, and new numbers demanding the skill and techniques that Svithiod has been known for throughout its history.

Joining the chorus in a beautiful group of solo numbers by Sibelius, Strauss, Prince Gustav and Sjöberg, and as supporting soloist in Schubert's magnificent work, "The Omnipotence," was Barbara Pearson, star of the opera and concert stages in Europe, New York and Chicago.

The following program by the chorus received resounding applause with a demand for three encores:

- Sverige Stenhammar
- Island Möller
- Norrland Stenhammar
- Psalm XXIV Wennerberg
(Soloist — T. Ralph Anderson)
- Behold The Light Strom-Lindberg
- The Last Words of David ... Thompson
- Sköna maj L. Been
- Soluppgång .. Knute Hansen - R. Pracht
- I bröllopsgården (From Ett bondbröllop) A. Söderman
- If I Were A Rich Man (From Fiddler On The Roof) .. Harnick-Bock
(Soloist — Bernhardt Mendro)
- John Peel M. Andrews
- The Omnipotence Schubert-Liszt
(Soloist — Barbara Pearson)
- Battle Hymn Of The Republic
..... Steffe-Ringwald
(Soloist — Tom Martin)

Following the concert a social hour gave old and new friends a chance to reminisce about the glory that was Svithiod's, and express hope for a continuation of this center of Scandinavian culture in Chicago.

Surely none of that small group of singers who first met at the North Side Turner Hall in March of 1882, to organize a male chorus could have dreamt of what the future would have in store.

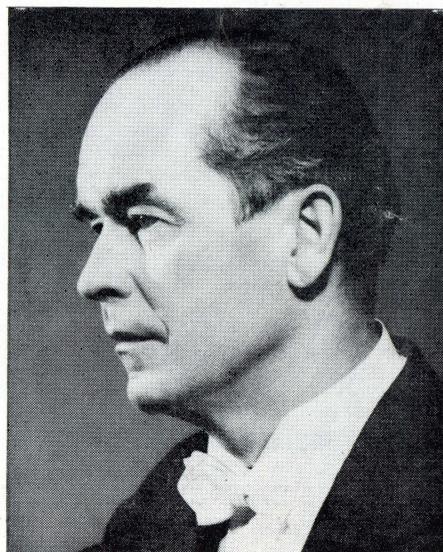
Joining the chorus in the first meeting and rehearsal in Boman's Hall at 109 Chicago Avenue were: three first tenors (Ludwig Johnson, Peter Gall and Alfred Anderson), three second tenors (Axel Blomfeldt, P. M. Pearson, and W. N. Wahlgren), three baritones (Charles Lundstrom, Charles Nelson, and Peter Pearson) and seven second basses (N. P. Malmborg, Charles Lindstrom, A. Lofdahl, Bernard Peterson, Axel Back, Gust West, and N. O. Winberg).

Directors for the chorus over the past 100 years were: 1882—Bjornholtz, Nordin and Norlander, 1883 through 1890—Nordin, Norlander, Elfaker, Becker and Norman, 1891 through 1892—Theodore Sjoquist, 1893 through 1906—John L. Swenson, 1907 through 1910—John Ortengren, 1911—N. B. Emanuel, 1912 through 1913—John S. Meck, 1914 through 1915—Joel Mossberg, 1916 through 1918—Edgar Nelson, 1919—Joel Mossberg, 1920 through 1921—Gustaf Carlson, 1922 through 1934—Joel Mossberg, and 1934 through 1972—Knute Hansen (our director emeritus).

(Continued on page 3)



JOEL MOSSBERG
 Director 1914, 1915, 1919, 1922-1934



KNUTE HANSEN
 Director 1934-1972



JOHN A. CARLSON, JR.
 Director Since 1972

Arpi and Finnish Chorus In Detroit Spring Concert

Arpi Male Chorus, assisted by Finlandia Male Chorus, presented a musically varied program that pleased both traditional and contemporary enthusiasts on April 18, at the Finnish Cultural Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Under the able direction of Herman Warne for Arpi, and Evert Mäkinen for Finlandia, the singing veterans offered a fine blend of Scandinavian and American songs.

The combined choruses opened the program with "This Is My Country," followed by "Stouthearted Men," under Warne's direction. "Serenad" and "Let There Be Music," Mäkinen directing, concluded the first section, all skillfully interpreted by the performers.

Finlandia's highly appreciated part of the program included these four selections: "Saskatchewan," "Coal Dust On The Fiddle," "Sininen ja valkoinen" and "Iltatuulen viesti," plus the inevitable encore, "Finlandia," all delivered with discipline and muted harmony.

Arpi was in amazingly fine voice, and Grieg's genius was treated well in "Sangerhilsen," which followed its theme song, "Slå ut dina vingar." Much of the Swedish heritage lies in its music, and ballads like "Rosa röd" and "Min ros" made one reminisce of years gone by. The total control on the familiar song, "Sångarvals," reminded us of the chorus' vocal power at a quicker tempo. Arpi's encore, the wonderful classic, "Vår-sång," showed off the splendid communication between director and singers.

The choruses concluded the concert in a joint presentation of "Now Let Every Tongue Adore Thee," the "Shenandoah" sea chantey, Mäkinen directing, and "Klara stjärna" under Warne's direction. Berlin's "God Bless America," directed by Warne, served as the finale and had the splendidly large audience clapping heartily — it seemed the ovations never wanted to cease. A truly memorable musical performance.

1982 will be a big and busy year for Arpi's sängarbröder. Arpi will host a dinner for Gislaved's Big Band of Småland at the Swedish Club on June 17, and the 35 member orchestra, conducted by Juan Campmany, will give a concert preceding the dinner.

Chorus members are, of course, looking forward to the AUSS National Convention in Seattle in July, at which time they once again will sing together and socialize with fellow singers from various Divisions. Arpi will also participate in the Scandinavian Festival in late July

and early August, which will take place in Dearborn and Downtown Detroit.

Arpi is gearing up for its 50th Jubilee banquet and concert celebration to be held in late November! The chorus, which was organized December 6, 1932, gave its first concert at the Swedish Salvation Army Hall in Detroit. Since then the chorus has successfully toured many cities in the United States as well as in Canada. Three charter members, baritone Ernest W. Gunnarsson, and tenors John Hackert and Arthur Myrgren, are still active with the chorus.

Ebba Slomeana.

Apollo Singer Wins in May

Richard Carlson, Apollo Singing Society, New Haven, CT., was the winner of the \$100 Seattle Convention drawing for May. Congratulations!

Gunnar Nordstrom,
Convention Raffle Chairman.

Keynotes from Waukegan

Our very successful Spring Concert on May 16 has further inspired us for the great singing Convention coming up in July! While we included some of the convention songs in our Spring Concert, there are still others we will be really working hard on before July 7. We are looking forward to Seattle!

Our April 18 fish boil was another gastronomic success. Now we are looking forward to another on Sunday, June 13. Glad to see some of our brother singers from Chicago at the April fish boil and hope to see more in June.

June 20 is our Midsummer Festival date. Festivities will get underway around 4 p.m., with refreshments, a *midsommarstång*, entertainment, and dancing. Each year hope springs eternal that the weather will cooperate so we can enjoy a lovely outdoor event!

Fred Fortney.

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ASI Male Chorus Pleases With May Spring Concert

American - Swedish Institute Male Chorus' annual Spring Concert was held at the Augustana Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, on Friday evening, May 7. Judging by the response it was the most crowd pleasing performance in memory.

In addition to entertaining choral selections, the program had a guest artist who proved to be a sensation. Leslie Giammanco, soprano, delighted the audience of 350 with a variety of selections ranging from novelty to grand opera. The highlight of the concert was the teaming of the male chorus with Miss Giammanco in "The Omnipotence" and "America the Beautiful," which was accorded a standing ovation.

On Sunday afternoon, June 13, the chorus will perform in full concert at the First Baptist Church at Cambridge, Minnesota, at the annual Swedish Day celebration. The ASI Male Chorus will then look forward to the national Convention of the AUSS in Seattle. This chorus will continue to provide entertaining programs and the finest of guest artists for its growing audiences.

From Gunnar Nordstrom, AUSS Financial Secretary

Of the nine choruses who were not included in our last report, eight have responded and are listed below. Still missing is the Norwegian Singing Society of San Francisco with a membership of 9 in '81.

	1982	1981
Eastern Division:		
Orphei Drängar Male Chorus, Springfield, MA	12	(12)
Viking Male Chorus, Jamestown, NY	25	(25)
Wennerberg Male Chorus, New Britain, CT	19	(20)
Central Division:		
American Swedish Institute Male Chorus, Minneapolis....	40	(39)
The Chicago Swedish Glee Club	51	(50)
Svithiod Singing Club Chorus, Chicago, IL	27	(28)
Western Division:		
Scandia Male Chorus, Salt Lake City, UT	22	(22)
Svea Male Chorus, Seattle, WA 52	(50)	
The total paid-up AUSS membership for 1982 as of May 20...642	(654)	

This concludes my second term as your financial secretary, a position I have thoroughly enjoyed. It has brought me in contact with all our fine choruses and I have made a lot of friends in spite of being a "tax collector." Thank you all.

Gunnar Nordstrom.

Vår första tenor

Vår första tenor är en utmärkt person som ger oss just vad han tycker. Vi tjuas ibland av hans härliga ton, men retas också av hans nycker. Men vi fanns ej till, om ej våra klor höll fast i vår präktiga första tenor.

Om vi har bestämt att träffas en kväll, klockan åtta, att öva på sången, då hjälper det varken gråt eller gnäll, han kommer då timman är gången, då skyndar han sakta och smilar och glör och vi får förlåta vår första tenor.

Och om vi nån gång ska ut på kalas, att sjunga för maten och supen, då är det ett ansenligt väsen och chas, att få med oss den sjungande strupen. Vi fästa oss inte för utnötta skor, om blott vi får med oss vår första tenor.

Men när på estraden han står i vår krets och stolt slungar fram "höga cena", då känns vilken oerhörd ära oss sketts vi känna det långt ner i "bena." Hur härlig han är, hur utmärkt, hur stor, vår rara och präktiga första tenor.

Och när han har slutat sin jordbana här och lämnat beundrarnas skara; han kommer och knackar på hos Sankt Pär, då höres en röst honom svara: "Och fastän du varit en syndare stor — kom in, vi behöver en första tenor!"

The above poem, a somewhat satirical ode to the indispensable first tenor, was written by an un-named singer about 60 years ago. It appeared in Musiktidning, vintage 1916. M. A.

Svithiod at 100

(Continued from page 1)

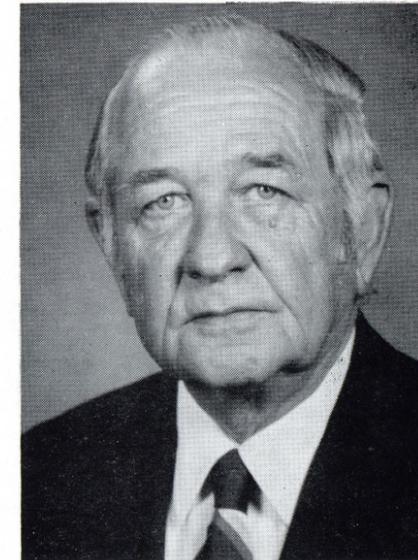
The chorus has achieved honors both in this country and on two tours to Sweden. It has appeared in concert with many famous singers including Lauritz Melchior and Rolf Björling. The chorus' director since 1972 has been John A. Carlson, Jr. The assistant director of the chorus is Bernhardt L. Mendro. The chorus accompanist is Mrs. Blanche Strom Nordberg.

Further celebration of the club's centennial will feature a banquet and dance to be held at the Scandinavian American Cultural Center in Arlington Heights, Illinois, on Saturday, October 16.

A hundred years from now a Svithiod singer reporting to the June 2082, issue of Musiktidning can look back and say: "A loyal group of singers, aided by a loyal group of ladies in the Ladies Auxiliary, sang, worked and sacrificed in 1982 to preserve the grand tradition of Svithiod and make the celebration of the first 100 years a reality."

Gordon Anderson Appointed Central Division Secretary

Gordon Anderson of Sveas Söner, Rockford, has been appointed secretary of the Central Division by Pehr Bolling, Division president. Anderson replaces Guy Sendele, who resigned.



GORDON ANDERSON

Gordon has sung with Sveas Söner since 1967, and has held a number of offices in the organization. He was president in 1976 when Sveas Söner hosted the Central Division Convention. His wife, Betty, served as co-chairman of that Convention.

Gordon is associated with the Curtis Casket Company.

AUSS PIN



ACTUAL SIZE

This design recognizes our national heritage by using colors red, white, blue and gold — looks great as a tie tac, lapel or cap pin.

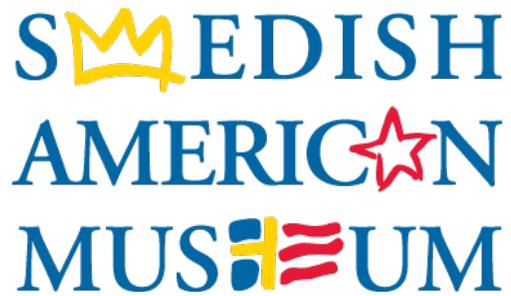
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