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Swedish Women's Chorus of Seattle 30



The Swedish Women's Chorus of Seattle celebrated its 30th anniversary March 29, 1981, with a dinner and program at St. John Luth. Church in Seattle.

Lilly Moen as chairperson for the evening's festivities, led the program in her usual dignified manner, introducing honored guests and visitors. Mr. Bert Sellin, president of the Western Division of AUSS, gave the greetings from the Division which he represents, as well as from the Svea Male Chorus, in an informative speech.

Carl M. Zeed, director of the chorus from its inception, 1951 until the year 1967, was acknowledged with a standing ovation.

Mr. Josef Oscarsson, manager of the Swedish Club of Seattle, was recognized, as well as Mr. Ernie Anderson, director of Svea Male Chorus, and others who have supported the activities of the chorus over the years. All attending ladies who have served as presidents during the past three decades, were lined up, and most of them added some interesting remarks to the program.

Mr. George Halvor, director since 1967, led the assembly in two numbers. The chorus, at full strength, sounded well, and Mr. Halvor and accompanist, Ruth Marie Fish, deserve credit for their fine work with the group. Under the leadership of Miss Elna Peterson, 1981 president, we predict that the Swedish Women's Chorus of Seattle will make itself very popular at the Convention in Seattle next year.

Other officers of the chorus are: Hazel Hanna, vice pres.; Pat Nordlund, sec'y; Gerd Starkweather, treas.

Martin Ahlm.

* * *

This is our 30th anniversary year, 1951-1981! Thirty years of accomplishment in keeping the tradition of Swedish song!

Before we could catch our breath from our singing tour of Sweden and Iceland last summer, we had to begin a busy fall schedule. Oct. 17 was the date set for a tour get-together, for an exchange of experiences and pictures. An exciting guest from Sweden was our driver and

guide, Evert Lingmerth. Oct. 26 we served our annual fund-raising, and always successful Swedish Meatball dinner. On Nov. 13 we sang at the Veterans' Hospital. Nov. 23 found us singing at two church services in one morning, at Ballard First Luth. Church's Nordic Festival observance, and in Our Redeemer's Luth. Church we presented a representation of our tour concert.

December was the height of activity: Christmas program at Newport Cov. Church in Bellevue on Dec. 13; singing at the Swedish Club's Lucia Fest on Dec. 15; the singer's Julfest on Dec. 20; and Julotta at Gethsemane Luth. Church on Dec. 25. We couldn't squeeze in another Christmas date, so our Christmas songs extended into January when we sang at the Columbia Conference Home on Jan. 13.

1981 has yet to prove an exception to our busy hum. We began with a Swedish pancake breakfast on Feb. 22, a fundraiser for the 1982 National Convention. These breakfasts are so popular, people

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Arpi and Scandia Choruses OF DETROIT

The Arpi Male Chorus of Detroit presented its 48th Anniversary Spring Concert on Palm Sunday, April 12, 1981, at the Finnish Cultural Center in Farmington Hills.

The chorus, under the direction of Herme Warne and Ingvald Orheim, assistant director, presented Scandinavian and English songs that were well received by the audience.

Mae Wickham, daughter of veteran Arpi member, Olof Bylund, was guest soloist and very nicely presented selections from "Madame Butterfly" and selected Swedish songs. She has a very sweet voice which lends itself well to any concert. The audience enthusiastically applauded her solo part in the presentation of "America, the Beautiful" with the Arpi Chorus.

Officers for the Arpi this year are: President, Bror Nilsson, Jr.; vice-president, Ingvald Orheim; secretary, Ernest Gunnarsson; treasurer, Einar Kullas; financial secretary, Tarmo Maattala.

Herme Warne is director and Ingvald Orheim is assistant director.

Not only the Arpi Male Chorus but the Scandia Women's Chorus, under the direction of Jean Branzei, have been busy during the past season.

Both choruses participated in the October Color Festival in Cadillac, presented by that area's Scandinavian Society. The Women's Chorus also featured their octet and a dance group.

The choruses participated in Christmas programs at the Immanuel Luth. Church.

The Arpi Male Chorus made its annual appearance for the Holiday Season at Dearborn Inn.

The Scandia Women's Chorus presented the Lucia tradition at the Jackson Community College for the Scandinavian Society of that city.

The Arpi Chorus is now rehearsing for the May 17 Fest (Norwegian) to be held at the Finnish Cultural Center. The Chorus also has voted to participate in the yearly Ethnic Festival to be held in Dearborn in July.

The Scandia Women's Chorus is rehearsing for its "Cabaret" to be held at the Ferndale Community Center in May 9, 1981.

These two choruses are major components of the Swedish Club which is in the throes of "growing pains." We have four acres of terraced land on a stream, a ranchhouse, a chalet and another house in Farmington Hills — and we are attempting to finance a Swedish Hall at the same time!

Tarmo Maattala.

Am. Sw. Inst. Male Chorus Shares Program with U of M Men's Glee Club

The ASI Chorus, in its 45th annual concert, May 8, had the honor to present the touring University of Michigan Men's Glee Club. In its only Minneapolis appearance, the Glee Club sang to a capacity audience at Augustana Luth. Church. Other entertainers on the program included Scandinavian Folk-singers Mike and Else Sevig, and accordionist Skeets Langley.

Chorus engagements in June include the Cambridge, Minn., Swedish Festival where we will sing at an all-Swedish service in the Cambridge Luth. Church; then our Svenskarnas Dag in Minnehaha Park, Minneapolis, June 28, where we sing together with the St. Paul Sw. Male Chorus. A tradition on this Swedish day is the singing at the Wennerberg statue. Of particular significance, 1981

commemorates the 80th anniversary of the great composer's death.

Social events and activities the past year included a birthday party for our friend Joel Larson. Joel, the mainstay of our first bass section and charter member of the chorus, was greeted by more than 200 well-wishers. The event, hosted by his family was held at the Institute. Songs were sung, and the hall rang with "sångarhälsning."

Henry Anderson.

• Ingrid Stjernlöf Success

Ingrid Stjernlöf, the Swedish mezzo-soprano from Malmö who made her New York debut last year, has received high praise from the critics in her recent concert in the Malmö City Hall. Reviews provided by Eli Weisman of the Swedish Information Service in New York indicate that the singer, who began her professional career only a few years ago, is well on her way to an important place among Swedish singers.

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Compilation of Historical Interest to AUSS

During research of the history of the American Union of Swedish Singers we made notes regarding National and Divisional conventions and the Grand Concerts from convention programs and files of Musiktidning. Since our sources are incomplete, some information is lacking, but most grand concerts are covered. Space will not allow printing the concert programs but we will give the place, whether National or Divisional, the President and Director-in-Chief at the time, the artists engaged, the chorus soloists, how many choruses, etc. It is interesting to observe the old names of the divisions as we go along to the present time. These names will be given in full to start with, then abbreviated. We hope you will be interested in this bit of history of the AUSS. — EDITOR.

(Continued)

1924 — Chicago — AUSS, 8th Nat. Conv. Hjalmar Nilsson, Pres.

Ernest Francke, Dir.-in-Chief. Artists: Marie Sundelius, Metro, Knut Öhrström, Royal Opera. Orchestra.

2 concerts, 61 choruses. 1,000 singers. Wm. Nordin, Henry Corsell, soloists.

AUSS accepted as member of Singers' Union in Sweden.

1924 — Everett, Wash. — Pacific. E. G. Smedlund, Pres.

Axel Philstrom, Dir.-in-Chief. Artists: Edna Swanson-Ver Haar, P. K. Hillstrom.

1 concert. 7 choruses. 20 singers. Pacific Div. joins AUSS.

1925 — St. Paul — N. W. John Wallin, Pres.

Hjalmar Nilsson, Dir.-in-Chief. Artists: Lillian Gustafson, Gunnar Schyler, Einar Ralf, Nils Söderström, Stockholm U. Chorus.

2 concerts. 14 choruses.

1926 — New York — AUSS, 9th Nat. Conv.

Fred Bolling, Pres. Ernst Francke, Dir.-in-Chief.

1926 — Oakland, Cal. — Pacific. C. T. Peterson, Pres.

Axel Philstrom, Dir.-in-Chief. Artists: Lillian Gustafson, soprano,

Esther Hjelte, piano. 2 concerts. 11 choruses. Herbert Linden, Philip Hillstrom, soloists.

1927 — Minneapolis — N. W. Carl Hedberg, Pres.

Paul Bloom, Dir.-in-Chief. Artists: National Chorus of Sweden, Emil Carelius, Dir. Soloists: Gustaf Rodin, John Johanson, Johan Friberg, Joel Berglund. Orchestra.

2 concerts. 18 choruses. 10,000 in audience each day.

1928 — Rockford — Midwest. C. N. Carlstedt, Pres.

Otto Carlson, Dir.-in-Chief.

1928 — Los Angeles — United Swedish Singers.

Magnus Gustafson, Pres. Axel Philstrom, Dir.-in-Chief.

Artists: Marie Sidenius-Zendt, A. W. Anderson, Sigurd Fredrickson.

1 concert. 10 choruses. Rev. Herman Olsson, soloist.

1928 — Providence — Eastern. C. A. Lindstrom, Pres.

Oscar Ekeberg, Dir.-in-Chief. Artists: Marie Sundelius, Metro, Reinald Warrenrath, opera. Orchestra.

2 concerts. 12 choruses.

1929 — Duluth — N. W. Carl Hedberg, Pres.

Paul Bloom, Dir.-in-Chief. Artists: Lillian Gustafson, soprano, Sonya Sahlen, violin. Orchestra.

2 concerts. 8 choruses. Joseph Erickson, Frank Carlson, soloists.

1930 — Portland — Pacific. C. A. Appelgren, Pres.

Axel Philstrom, Dir.-in-Chief. Artist: William Hedberg. Orchestra.

1 concert. 10 choruses.

1930 — Brainerd — N. W. Gotthard Bjelke, Pres.

Paul Bloom, Dir.-in-Chief. Artist: Helen Kelley, violin.

1 concert. 14 choruses. Joseph Erickson, Oliver Bloom, soloists.

1931 — Center City — N. W. Gotthard Bjelke, Pres.

Paul Bloom, Dir.-in-Chief. Artist: Alva Ostrom, contra-alto.

Orchestra. 1 concert. 7 choruses. 300 singers. Frank Carlson, Elton Björklund, Henry Methlie, Harold Brundin, soloists.

1931 — Des Moines — Midwest. Ernest Freden, Pres.

Wm. Nordin, Dir.-in-Chief. Artists: Clifford Julstrom, violin, Clifford Bloom, Arnold Carlson, organ.

2 concerts. 16 choruses. 400 singers. Carl Norrbom, soloist.

1932 — New Haven — Eastern. John Osterberg, Pres.

Oscar Ekeberg, Dir.-in-Chief. Artists: Marie Sundelius, Metro, Eric Demander, violin, Inga Hill, contra-alto.

2 concerts. 7 choruses. Thure Hulthen, Ernest Mielow, soloists.

1932 — San Francisco — Pacific. Emil Högberg, Pres.

Axel Philstrom, Dir.-in-Chief. Artists: Frances Anderson, Ester Folli, Elizabeth Reeves.

1 concert. 7 choruses. 150 singers. Sten Englund, Philip Hillstrom, soloists.

1933 — Chicago — AUSS, 10th Nat. Conv. 40th Anniversary.

Fred Bolling, Pres. Oscar Ekeberg, Dir.-in-Chief.

Artist: Lillian Gustafson. 2 concerts. 38 choruses. 600 singers. Joel Mossberg, Wm. Nordin, soloists.

1934 — Salt Lake City — Pacific. Knut Lindquist, Pres.

Axel Philstrom, Dir.-in-Chief.

Artists: Marie Sidenius-Zendt, Wm. Hardiman, violin, Frank Asper, organ.

1 concert. 130 singers. Sten Englund, Philip Hillstrom, soloists.

Audience of 6,000 in the Tabernacle. 1935 — Jamestown — Eastern.

John Österberg, Pres. Oscar Ekeberg, Dir.-in-Chief.

Artists: Lillian Gustafson, Thomas Mistretta, violin, Harold Gustafson, trumpet. Orchestra.

2 concerts. 30 choruses. S. V. Hoagberg, soloist.

1935 — Batavia, Geneva, St. Charles — Midwest.

Edward Johnson, Pres. Wm. Nordin, Dir.-in-Chief.

Artist: Mrs. F. E. Royston. Orchestra. 2 concerts. 17 choruses.

1935 — St. Paul — N. W. Henry Samuelson, Pres.

Charles Hilmer, Dir.-in-Chief. 1 concert. Orchestra. Harold Brundin, Geo. Hultgren, Joseph Erickson, soloists.

1936 — Seattle — Pacific. Axel Johanson, Pres.

C. H. Sutherland, Dir.-in-Chief. Artist: Aug. Werner. Orchestra.

1 concert. 7 choruses. Wm. O. Hedberg, soloist.

1937 — Sioux City — Midwest. Edward Johnson, Pres.

Gustaf Ohlson, Dir.-in-Chief. Artist: Marie Sidenius-Zendt. Orchestra.

2 concerts. 14 choruses. Joel Mossberg, soloist.

1937 — Minneapolis — N. W. Henry Samuelson, Pres.

Charles Helmer, Dir.-in-Chief. 6 choruses. Concert at Swedish Day Festival.

1938 — Philadelphia — AUSS, 11th Nat. Convention.

John Hellberg, Pres. Oscar Ekeberg, Dir.-in-Chief.

Artists: Swedish Tercentenary Jubilee Chorus. Hugo Alfvén, Dir., Einar Byron, Royal Opera, soloist.

1 concert. Thure Hulthen, soloist. Orchestra. The festival orchestra played "Midsommarvaka" with Hugo Alfvén, the composer, as guest conductor. Among guests were Crown Princess Louise and Prince Bertil, of Sweden, who, on behalf of his father, Crown Prince Gustaf, presented AUSS with a Swedish flag.

1939 — Brainerd — N. W. M. A. Shelgren, Pres.

T. W. Fredrickson, Dir.-in-Chief. Artists: Bion Humphrey, trumpet, Elmer Peterson, clarinet. Orchestra.

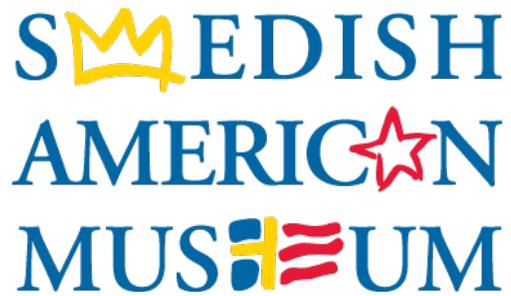
1 concert. 8 choruses.

1939 — Hartford — Eastern. Carl Brandt, Pres.

Oscar Ekeberg, Dir.-in-Chief. Artists: Göta Ljungberg, Metro, Gertrude Berggren.

2 concerts. 16 choruses. 500 singers. Thure Hulthen, Arvid Gustafson, Frank Soderlund, soloists.

(To be continued)



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