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# SONG OF NORWAY



Velkommen  
to our 25th  
Season

COLORFUL,  
FAMILY MUSICAL

A MT. HOREB PRODUCTION



# *About the "Song of Norway"*

Song of Norway is a fictionalized account of the life of Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg. His music is renowned for its eloquent use of folk themes and songs, unique harmonizations, and for embodying the Norwegian national spirit of independence. Nina Hagerup, a cousin of Grieg was not only his childhood sweetheart, but also a noted singer and musician, and his wife.

The independent spirit and uniqueness of Norwegian music animates Song of Norway. In the first scene, the poet Rikard Nordraak extols Norway's ancient sagas and scenic marvels. He is busy working on what he intends to be the great national Norwegian epic poem, which Grieg has promised to set to music.

These plans are thwarted by a globe-trotting opera diva known as Louisa Giovanni and the Countess Le Loup. The Countess is looking for a colorful ethnic experience in Bergen during the Midsummer Festival, but finds instead Grieg, a musical genius, whom she hopes to promote musically and to woo from the land of his birth and his bride-to-be. She attempts ploy after ploy—finally dashing off to Copenhagen unexpectedly, with Grieg in tow.

In Act 2, Grieg finds himself caught up in the world of the celebrity. His mother perceives that he is a Norwegian at heart, and that only a marriage to Nina will resolve his unhappiness. She persuades Nina to take matters in her own hands and announce the wedding day.

At the same time, the Countess arranges for Grieg to write incidental music of Henrik Ibsen's famous play Peer Gynt. The Countess makes her dramatic statement; then Nina boldly confronts the situation with announces the impending marriage. A series of dramatic musical numbers results and Rikard, who is near death, proclaims his despair about ever hearing music written by Grieg for his epic poem, and all the principals vocally express their different emotions in a stunningly beautiful finaletto at the end of the first scene of Act 2.

Not to be outdone, the Countess hatches yet another plot, hoping to get Grieg to finish Peer Gynt and to send Nina packing back to Norway. This takes place in a Rome chocolate shop, and nearly drives her impresario mad.

The Peer Gynt ballet is finally staged at a gala in the Countess' Roman villa, but without Grieg, who has become too morose to confront the two dilemmas: Nina versus the Countess; Grieg a Norwegian composer working outside his element. In the end, love, Norway, and Nina conquer all. Grieg returns to Norway and becomes a national institution.

## Synopsis of Scenes

### ACT I

#### Scene 1:

Troldhaugen (Hill of Trolls), outside Bergen, Norway,  
Midsummer's Eve in the 1860s.

"The Legend" ..... Rikard  
"Hill of Dreams" ..... Nina, Edvard, Rikard

#### Scene 2:

A square on the outskirts of Bergen.

Maypole and Spring dances

"Freddy and His Fiddle" ..... Einar, Sigrid, Freddy, Chorus  
"Now" ..... Louisa, Chorus  
"Strange Music" ..... Edvard, Nina  
"Midsummer's Eve" ..... Rikard, Louisa  
"March of the Trolgers" ..... Chorus  
"Hymn of Betrothal" ..... Mother Grieg, Chorus  
Finale ..... Company

*Intermission, 15 minutes*

### ACT II

#### Scene 1

Copenhagen, a reception room of the  
Royal Conservatory, one year later

"Bon Vivant" ..... Edvard, Peppi, 4 Women, Chorus  
"Three Loves" ..... Louisa, Edvard  
"Rikard's Farewell" ..... Rikard  
"Finaletto" ..... Company

#### Scene 2

Rome, Tito's Chocolate Shop, one year later

#### Scene 3

Rome, Ballroom of Villa Pincio

"Anitra's Dance" (Peer Gynt Ballet) ..... Adelina  
"I Love You" ..... Nina

#### Scene 4

Edvard Grieg's Home, Troldhaugen, Sometime later

"At Christmastime" ..... Father and Mother Grieg, Nina, Children

#### Scene 5

"Spirit of Norway"

"North Wind"

Finale ..... Company



## CAST

Rikard Nordraak - *Rik Rickerson*  
Sigrid - *Kristin Haglund*  
Einar - *Dan Brice*  
Gunnar - *Matt Hall*  
Christa - *Shereen Esser*  
Grima - *Nicole McLoughlin*  
Hedda - *Sarah Haebig*  
Nina Hagerup - *Ami Bouterse*  
Edvard Grieg - *Thomas Black*  
Father Grieg - *Richard Ostern*  
Father Nordraak - *Greg Dennis*  
Mother Grieg - *Shirley Archer*  
Freddy the Fiddler - *Patty Schlafer*  
Count Peppi Le Loup - *Don Parrell*  
Louisa Giovanni - *Susan Boerth*  
Professor - *Dwayne Garfoot*  
Miss Norden - *Sherri Hefty*  
Elvera - *Sarah Haebig*  
Hedwig - *Nicole McLoughlin*  
Greta - *Kaia Bakken*  
Margareta - *Bethany Homrig*  
Miss Anders - *Shereen Esser*  
Henrik Ibsen - *Michael Mudrey*  
Tito - *Mickey Lipska*  
Pisoni - *Matthew Horn*  
Adelina - *Julia Barker*  
Butler - *Dwayne Garfoot*  
Spirit of Norway - *Julia Barker*  
North Wind - *Todd Haglund*

## CHORUS

Soprano / Alto  
*Dianne Cerling, Carol Dann,  
Donna Disney, Joanne Hall,  
Jeanne Hefty, Grace Lashly, Terry  
Leigh, Tee Parrell, Tami Phillips,  
Stacey Rosenbaum, Marilyn  
Roum, Rachel Soltis*

Tenor / Bass  
*Russ Davis, Dave Dybdahl,  
Gerald Haglund, Dean Hefty,  
Chuck Roum*

## MAYPOLE DANCERS

*Erica Bakken, Chelsea Black, Lee  
Black, Sarah Brue, Dan Cerling,  
Kristin Cerling, Emily Davis, Sheila  
Davis, Marit Hall, Alyssa Haebig,  
Mitchell Hall, Amber Janssen, Elise  
Janssen, Tanya Pladziewicz, Sara  
Pladziewicz, Jenny Walker*

## SPRING DANCERS

*Kaia Bakken, Dan Brice, Shereen  
Esser, Sarah Haebig, Kristin  
Haglund, Matt Hall, Bethany  
Homrig, Caroline Horn, Matt Horn,  
Erik Knudtson, Mickey Lipska,  
Nicole McLoughlin, Scott Phillips*

ACCOMPANIST - *Barbara Brekke*

STAGE & MUSIC DIRECTOR - *William Janssen*

CHOREOGRAPHER - *Julia Barker*

STAGE MANAGER - *Gregory Dennis*

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR - *Trygve Haglund*

## **BACKSTAGE CREW**

Steve Hall, Brian McLoughlin, Ken Cerling

## **PROPS**

DeAnne Horn

## **COSTUMES**

Pat Phillips (Head), Paula Craft, Sue Brice, Mary Carol Esser, Shereen Esser, Pat Harper, DeAnne Horn, Lynn Mudrey, Vicky Rosenbaum, Sheila Williams

## **MAKE-UP**

Simone McLoughlin (Head), Sue Walker, Diane Pladziewicz, Gina Sluiter

## **TECHNICAL CREW**

Trygve Haglund (Head), Joan Haglund, Ben Johnson, Brett Phillips

## **USHERS**

Dean Hefty (Head), Gert Brager, Marcia Brue, Marlyn Grinde, Milo & Gladys Grundahl, Sherri Hefty, Jerry & Julie Landmark, Ken & Edna Helgeson, Melba Huseh, Russell & Delores Jelle, Alvin Jones, Emma Lund, Chuck & Bark Morkri, Les & Hilda Oimoen, Chuck & Marilyn Roun

## **ADMISSIONS**

Joanne Hall & Virginia Peterson (Head), William & Carol Johnson, Henry & Beverly Eckel, Irv & Judy Steinhauer, Mary Jane Lynch, John & Pat Ellestad, Jerry & Lolly Dickinson, Chuck & Doris Hayes, Roger & Trudy Hollfelder, Dale & Mitzi Johnson, Arnold & Laura Norslien, Michael & Judy Jennings, Audrey Casey, Chuck & Pauline Misky, Linda Gerke, Hazel Herman, Fleta Shackelford, Mildred Thronson, Henry & Betty Grundahl, Mark & Wendy Haebig

## **SONG OF NORWAY DANCERS**

Jeanne & Dean Hefty (Directors), Gert Brager, Dan & Marcia Brue, Carol Dann, Dwayne Garfoot, Jerry Haglund, Sherri Hefty, Joe Ignatious, Jerry & Julie Landmark, Mike Mudrey, Don & Marguerite Parrell, Charles & Marilyn Roun

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO...**

Dean Hefty, Hefty Builders - for stage construction  
Ervin Howery Mickey Lipska, Tom Disney, Brett Phillips,  
Scott Phillips, Tami Phillips, Russ Davis - for site preparation and repairs  
Mt. Horeb Middle School - for rain location  
Mt. Horeb Chamber of Commerce - for advertising  
Anchor Saving & Loan - for underwriting choreography  
Symdon Motors - for truck in parade  
Phil Martin and Mike Mudrey - for coordinating Fiddle Fest  
State Bank of Mt. Horeb - for TV ads  
Mount Horeb Chamber of Commerce - for advertising  
John Ellestad - for use of chairs  
Mt. Horeb High School - for rehearsal space  
Cave of the Mounds - for general support and assistance  
Sons of Norway Vennelag 513 - for general assistance  
Wisconsin Power and Light - for light pole replacement



Musical adaptation and lyrics by Robert Wright & George Forrest

Book by Milton Lazarus from a play by Homer Curran

Choral and orchestra arrangements by Arthur Kay

Music by Edvard Grieg

In arrangement with music and dialogue material furnished by

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## **1991 Performances (25th season)**

**July 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27**

**8:00 pm**

On the Grounds of Cave of the Mounds, Blue Mounds, Wisconsin

In case of rain, performances are at the Mt. Horeb Middle School,  
207 Academy Str., Mt. Horeb.

**Rain Date:**

If rain forces cancellation of the show before intermission, refunds will be made. Mail ticket stub to: SONG OF NORWAY FESTIVAL, LTD.

### **PRODUCED BY**

**SONG OF NORWAY FESTIVAL, LTD. (NON-PROFIT)**

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**MT. HOREB, WISCONSIN 53572**

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SONG OF  
NORWAY

25th  
Anniversary  
Season  
1991





## DEDICATION

*This twenty-fifth season of Mount Horeb's Song of Norway Festival and this commemorative program are dedicated to the honor and memory of all who have participated in Song of Norway both onstage and off, from 1967 through 1991. May their legacy enliven the stage for many years to come.*



## THE ORIGINAL SHOW

While Mount Horeb's production of *Song of Norway* is a quarter of a century old, the operetta itself is nearly fifty. It was brought to life in the midst of World War II, opening on June 12, 1944, in Los Angeles — one of a number of elaborate musicals which turned an eager public's attention away from wartime rigors. It was such a success that on August 21 it opened in New York at the Imperial Theater and played for a record-setting 860 performances.

The show's creators, Robert Wright and George Forrest, drew upon the life and music of Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg for their inspiration. But for *Song of Norway's* soul, they drew upon Norwegian nationalism at a time when that country's resistance movement against the occupying Nazi forces had attracted international sympathy. The time was right to honor Norway, just as the time has been right during these last twenty-five years for Mount Horeb to honor its own Norwegian roots.

## PLOT SYNOPSIS

Edvard Grieg's music is renowned for his use of folk themes and songs, and for embodying Norway's spirit of independence. Adapters Wright and Forrest drew upon both this folk quality and nationalistic fervor in *Song of Norway*, but took great liberties with Grieg's own biography. In the first scene, poet Rikard Nordraak extols Norway's sagas and scenic beauty in what he intends to be the great national Norwegian epic poem, which Grieg has promised to set to music. His plans are thwarted by a globe-trotting operatic diva known as both Louisa Giovanni and the Countess Le Loup. She "discovers" Grieg, plots to promote him musically, and to woo him from both Norway and his bride-to-be, Nina Hagerup. At the end of Act I, the Countess unexpectedly sweeps Grieg off to Copenhagen, leaving behind both Rikard (the embodiment of Norwegian spirit) and Nina (the embodiment of Norway's supposedly simple folk character).

In Act II, Grieg finds himself becoming a celebrity on the Continent. But he is unsure whether he wants such a life. His mother perceives that he is a Norwegian at heart, and that only a marriage to Nina will resolve his dilemma. She persuades Nina to announce the wedding day. At the same time, the Countess arranges for Grieg to write music for Henrik Ibsen's famous play *Peer Gynt*. These conflicting emotions come to a head at the end of the first scene. The Countess continues to plot, tearing apart Edvard and Nina — by then married. The *Peer Gynt* ballet is finally staged by Louisa, but without Grieg. In the end, love, Norway, and Nina conquer all, and Grieg returns to Norway and to national honors, composing his famous concerto as an accompaniment to Rikard's poem.

Compiled and edited by Jack Holzhuetter, Sherri J. Hefty,  
Andrea Christofferson

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*Front cover: Monona Rossol (Nina Hagerup) and James Rensink (Edvard Grieg) singing Strange Music in Act I, 1974 season.*

*Back Cover: Two views from 1967. Top, from left, Jacqueline Berge, Jeanne Hefty, Mozelle Sherman (Countess), Ron Forsmo (Rikard Nordraak), Dennis Hirschbein (Edvard Grieg), Monona Rossol (Nina Hagerup), on the hill above the first stage at Tyrol Basin. Bottom: Forsmo, Rossol, and Hirschbein singing Hill of Dreams, Act I.*



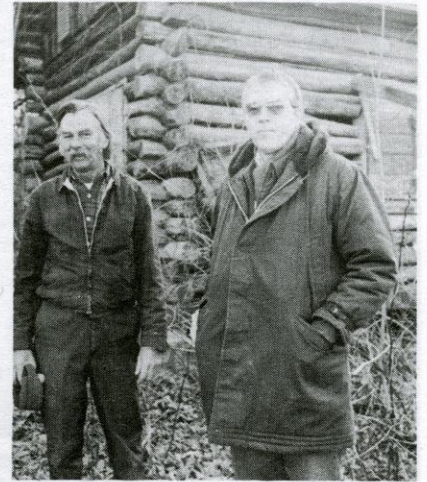
## SONG COMES TO MOUNT HOREB

For nearly forty years, retired Mount Horeb lumber dealer Forest Johnson has kept a diary. In it can be found some of the only written hints that tell the "how" behind the beginnings of Mount Horeb's Song of Norway Festival.

On Wednesday, November 16, 1966, he wrote: "Yesterday I had coffee with Lee Vogel who wants to develop the Norwegian theme in Mount Horeb, presenting The Song of Norway 6 times in the summer."

Two weeks later to the day he wrote: "Up before seven and to work about 7:20. Worked on Madison orders I had started last night to be sure they were ready before I went to committee meeting for Song of Norway Ltd. at Vogels. Vogel had done all the research and we commended him for his work. The group is to promote Skandinavian Culture in the area."

There is a tinge of irony in the fact that Lee Vogel launched Song (as it has been known locally for years), since Vogel is of Swiss extraction — a circumstance which initially irritated some loyal Norwegian-Americans in the Mount Horeb community and may have been one of the factors which have prompted Vogel to keep a low profile about his involvement for many years.



Lee Vogel (right), principal figure in starting the Song of Norway festival, and Forest Johnson (left), diarist who chronicled early meetings and who played the Count for many years, ca. 1973.

Photo by Mike Patenaude.



Oljanna Cunneen (left), the second principal figure in founding Song, and its costume designer and wardrobe mistress from 1967 to 1980, with Inez Skalet, in 1987. Photo by Robert Ames.

Credit often has been given as well to a second person, Oljanna Cunneen (1923 - 1988), for being the inspiration behind Song, but in the two or three years before her death, she readily admitted on several occasions that Vogel, not she, had thought of Song of Norway.

She related that she had visited Norway in the spring of 1966 and had thoroughly enjoyed the Midsummer Eve festivals. She mentioned them to Vogel, who said he had been thinking of something along the same lines — the operetta, Song of Norway, which did not require the waterfront and boats so common to the Norwegian celebrations.

Oljanna heartily agreed with him, she recalled, and offered her services as the "outside" person, who could inspire fellow Norwegian-Americans to participate, in counterpart to his "inside" management activities. And she volunteered to design the costumes where her talent for Norwegian embroidery and design would be put to good use. She soon persuaded others to join her, and so did Vogel.

All through the autumn of 1966 and the next winter, plans were laid. Johnson reported about the undertaking again and again in his diary. By the spring, committees were meeting, rehearsals were underway, the Song of Norway Singers and Dancers were formed as core groups for the cast and to entertain and promote.

On March 30, 1967, he wrote: "Tonight after seeing 1/2 of the benefit basketball game for AFS, I picked up Doris (Forest's wife) and we went to Norwegian Singing practice at Dybdahls and had a good time. Tordis Antonson helped us with the pronunciation. I hope I can get Eges (a local veterinarian and his wife) to join the group."



Photo by Mount Horeb Mail

The Song of Norway Dancers (left) in 1967, and a 1969 rehearsal in the Middle School gym (right), with director Ed Amor at left and Jeanne Hefty at right. Hefty has missed only one performance in twenty-four years and will be on stage this year as well.



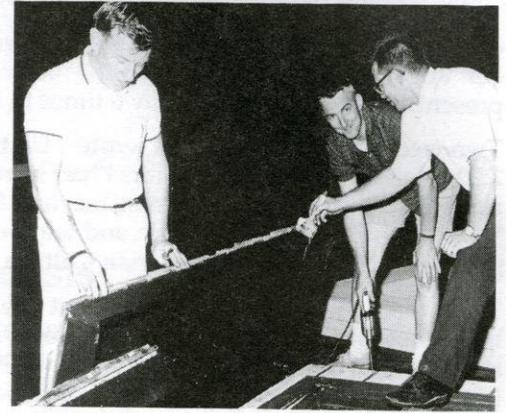
Photo by Burns Studio





Many persons soon were involved. Susan Koller directed the dancers; Cunneen persuaded women to knit and embroider Norwegian designs for costumes, including Marie Jensen and Pat Ellestad; Gladys Board became a stage manager; Dick Peterson revived his dancing. All told, about eighty persons worked that first season.

*A community show. Mount Horeb Jaycees respond to appeals for help, June 29, 1967. Club members put finishing touches on the stage which had not been in final shape for the first, rained-out performance, but was ready for the second. At left, Jim Thompson drilling a light mount; at right, Richard Schmid, Dean Hefty (still the head builder), and John Anderson. Photos by Mount Horeb Mail.*



Not everything went smoothly. Johnson wrote on April 20 that "Matt was in a stew getting material off for the Song of Norway Stage setting" at Tyrol Basin, the local ski hill run by Sandy Stevenson where Song was performed from 1967 through 1978.

Johnson reported other features that became standard as well. Just the day before, his entry reflected two key elements that have distinguished the show from the beginning — the enthusiasm of the performers, and ability to overcome lack of experience: "the Song of Norway groups (appeared) before the Homemaker dinner at the Fair Grounds. All were there and though we aren't very smooth, the audience felt we were enjoying ourselves."



*Nancy Stearns (center), first director, giving the cast "notes" in 1967.*



*Jeanne and Dean Hefty of the Song of Norway Dancers, at one of numerous promotional events.*

Meanwhile, Vogel had arranged for a handful of professionals and skilled amateurs from the University and Madison musical circles to assist with direction and performance. From the first, the organizers had decided to engage only singers who could handle the demanding principal roles. But plenty of local residents took center stage as well. In the first cast, Eleanor Arneson from Mount Horeb was Mother Grieg; Johnson performed the character role of the Count.

The four key roles — Grieg, Nina, the poet Rikard Nordraak, and the Countess — were sung by Madisonians Dennis Arlan Hirschbein, Monona Rossol, Ron Forsmo (who just happened to be Oljanna's Cunneen's cousin), and Mozelle Sherman, whose husband Louis was the music director.



*Photo by Vernon Lunde*

*Left: Dennis Hirschbein (Grieg), with Monona Rossol (Nina), and Jack Holzhueter (center) after a 1967 show. Center: Forest Johnson as the count singing Bon Vivant, 1967. Right: Arthur Becknell (Grieg, 1969-1971) and Rossol. Hirschbein and Becknell both played the difficult piano music on stage as well.*



*Photo by Burns Studio*



Vogel had sought assistance in casting and directing from the University of Wisconsin Extension's Wisconsin Idea Theater, which suggested the Shermans of Madison and Nancy Stearns of Oregon as production director. The Shermans, in turn, recruited Forsmo and Rossol, who had just appeared with Mozelle in the Madison Opera production of *Die Fledermaus*.

Forsmo helped find Hirschbein, a gifted pianist and composer as well as a baritone who was studying at the University. Hirschbein was the first of three Griegs who played the difficult piano music onstage. The other two were Arthur Becknell (1969-1971) and Jim Rensink (1974-1976).

So it was that networks, both in Mount Horeb and Madison, contributed to a unique and successful collaboration.



*At center, Mozelle Sherman, the Countess from 1967 to 1969, singing Three Loves with Dennis Hirschbein (Grieg) both singing and playing, 1967. Sherman's husband Louis was the first music director. Photo by Burns Studio.*

Johnson wrote on June 20 (the first performance was to be Saturday, June 24) that Nancy Stearns "thought that the principals should go out for a get-acquainted party. Club 18 was closed, so we went to the Karakahl."

Formal gatherings were not always needed, though. Eleanor Arneson and Oljanna Cunneen both often mentioned Rossol's salty tongue and sense of humor that acted as a leveler, and Hirschbein won hearts easily. "I just loved that boy," Arneson has said many times over the years. (He died of cancer at age 33 in New York after having written several successful children's operettas under the name of Dennis Arlan.)

Rossol always mentioned the coffee, lemonade, and desserts that were part of each rehearsal and performance—treats that created camaraderie and sweetened the work. Her career took her to New York in 1969, but she returned to Mount Horeb for each season through 1982, the year she sang only three of six performances, breaking her perfect record.

When asked to reflect on the show in honor of its silver anniversary, she wrote: "The feeling of being a family often develops in the casts of shows during their run. But *Song of Norway* was different. Not only the cast, but the crew, the ushers, half of the audience, and the entire town became family — and stayed that way for years. I still feel that Mount Horeb is 'home.'

"I have never been able to explain to my New York friends why I am prouder of my association with *Song of Norway* in a small Wisconsin town than I am of my Off- and Off, Off-Broadway credits. When I leaf through my clippings, those from *Song of Norway* make me pause and remember."



*One Nina (Monona Rossol), with two Rikards (Ron Forsmo, far left, in 1970 or 1971, and Chuck Himsel, far right, in 1974, 1975, or 1976), and three Griegs (Arthur Becknell, left; Stephen Marquart, center, 1972; and James Rensink, right). Marquart and Rensink later had careers in opera, and Rensink performed the role of Grieg professionally on several occasions.*



Photo by James W. Stone



## OPENING NIGHT . . . AND THE WEATHER

For eleven years, Song was rained out only once — and that was its opening night, June 24, 1967. The show was presented to 161 ticket holders in the Mount Horeb Middle School gymnasium — the best “theater” in town, even better than the high school’s.

Again Forest Johnson’s diary tells the story: “Awakened to rain and a forecast for rain and cold all day. Got called to the lumber yard for truck to haul scenery from Tyrol to gym.... To school at 6:30. Not much of a crowd but everyone thrilled with performance. Nina, Louisa and Mother Grieg got bouquets of roses. After play almost all of cast and crew to Golf Bowl for champagne party, Norwegian dancing, singing from the play and our Norwegian songs & more dancing. Home at 2:00 and happy.”

Johnson’s reference to Tyrol means the Mount Horeb area ski hill, Tyrol Basin, one valley east of the Cave of the Mounds. The first stage sat between Big Cedar and Perfect Pitch ski runs, a fair walk uphill from the parking area and chalet. Song played there two years, then moved downhill closer to the chalet. Wind at the uphill site defeated scenery, but the elevation offered a wonderful view. The steep slopes at both locations offered amphitheater seating.



*Trudging up the hill to the first stage on the Tyrol Basin site (upper right), where Forest Johnson (Count Le Loup) found himself “playing” his cane on a rain-slick stage the first season (left). In 1969 the show moved to a stage nearer Tyrol’s Chalet (lower right, ca. 1971).*

Photo by James W. Stone

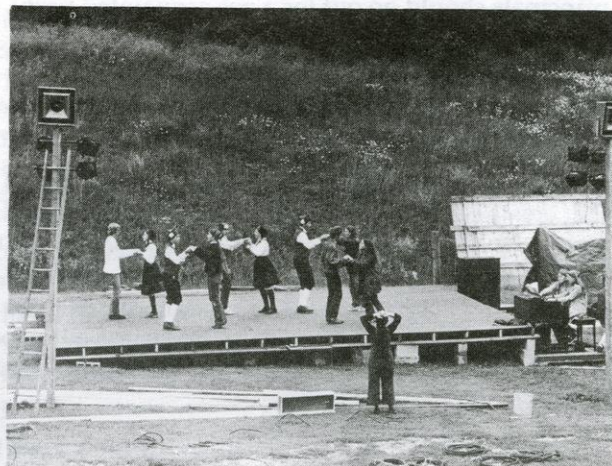
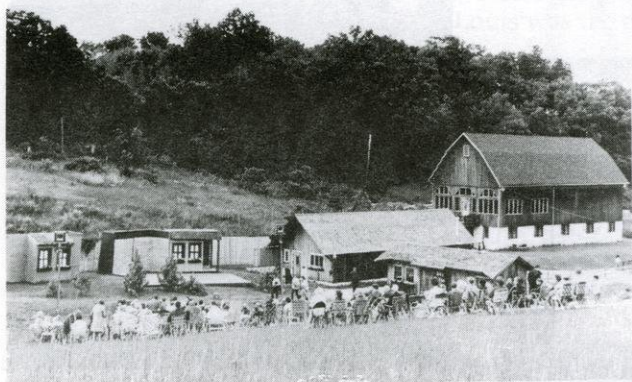


Photo by A. Craig Benson

But Tyrol was, after all, a ski hill, and each year the stage had to be removed for winter operations. That meant many rehearsals were accompanied by the whine of saws and hammer clangs — not conducive to onstage concentration.



*The second stage at Tyrol Basin, used from 1969 to 1978 and favored by a natural amphitheater setting, to which the audience brought its own seating.*





Photo by Mike Patenaude

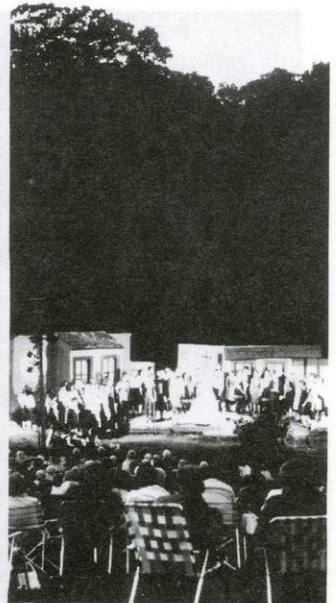
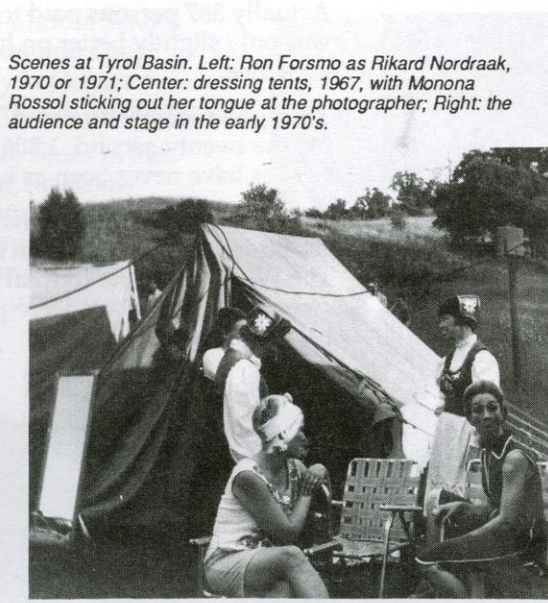


Photo by James W. Stone

In 1979, Song moved to the Cave of the Mounds, whose slope is gentler and whose oak woods afford a different kind of outdoor enchantment. The Cave site made it possible to build a permanent stage (1982), support buildings (1983), and solid acoustical walls, all designed to harmonize with the rural setting — and all erected or supervised by Dean Hefty, a Song member since 1967.

*From Tyrol Basin (1967-1978) to the Cave of the Mounds (1979 to the present). Right: the Maypole Dance at Tyrol—a Mount Horeb addition to the original script; Below left: the first year at the Cave, 1979; Below right: entrance to the Cave site, with its gentler slope (ca. 1983).*

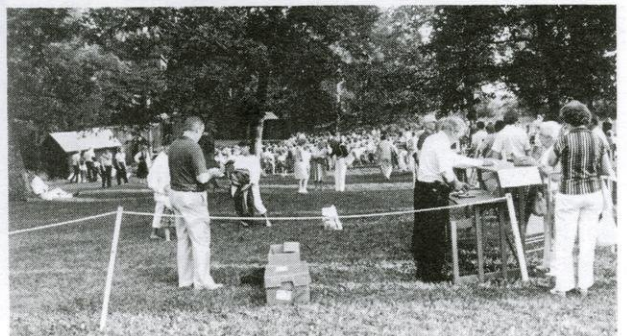


Photo by Duane W. Hopp

The lack of formality extends naturally to audience seating. How better to enjoy the outdoors and a family show than on blankets and lawn chairs, with the possibility of a pre-performance picnic?

In 1967, these were novel ideas in Wisconsin. People wanted to see the show outdoors, and despite bad weather, that is where the second show was held on July 1.

As Forest Johnson wrote: "It was windy and raining. Thought they'd have to have the play at school again, but at noon the move to Tyrol was started.... At 6:00 when we boarded the bus it sprinkled. After our warm-up, people began coming and it was amazing how many came in the cloudy weather.... It rained during the first act a little off & on, but the show went on without stopping. I think everyone was pleased."



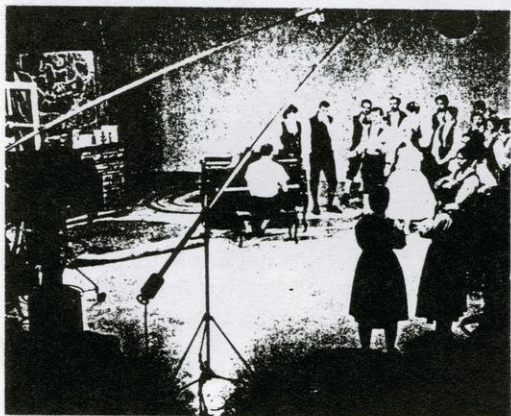
Indeed, everyone was pleased, including Elizabeth Gould, the critic for Madison's Wisconsin State Journal: "The brief showers that fell intermittently throughout the play did nothing to dampen the spirits of the cast on their uncovered stage, or the 250 or more enthusiastic onlookers who sat on blankets or folding chairs, huddled under umbrellas on the hillside, and watched this lovely, colorful production." She found the costumes "exquisite" and the setting "lovely." She concluded, "Song of Norway as a community effort and a tribute to the Norwegian heritage of many of Mount Horeb's citizens, is a beautiful production of which the town may well be proud."





Above: Betsy Peters, Countess (1970-1972), with Jeremy Learn, long-time Pisoni, during the Chocolate Shop scene. Peters was the first Countess from Mount Horeb. Right: another Dancers' appearance, early 1970's.

Plans got underway as well to make a half-hour television show of Song of Norway for WHA-TV in Madison. (They nearly came a cropper because Hollywood was dickering for the rights to make a movie, which appeared in 1970 with Florence Henderson as Nina.) WHA aired the Mount Horeb version on the eve of Syttende Mai (May 17, the day Norwegians observe independence from Denmark), and the station's publicity for a number of years featured still photographs from it.



### WHA Televises 'Song of Norway'

University of Wisconsin television studios became the focal point for the many Mt. Horeb residents involved in the "Song of Norway" musical. WHA-TV is cooperating with Song of Norway Festival Ltd. to produce a one-hour television program showing how a community with wholehearted support from its citizens can develop a project from which everyone will extract a measure of satisfaction and pride of accomplishment.

Every cast member and back-

stage support people together with Production Director Nancy Stearns and Music Director Lou Sherman added this television production to their already heavy Christmas holiday schedule of work. Each day of television studio rehearsal and taping would extend into the early morning hours of this past Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

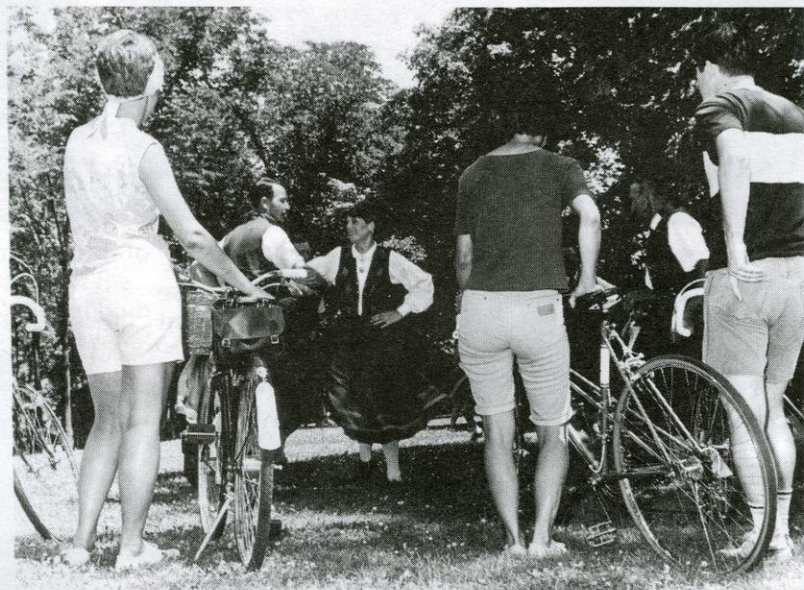
Ron Policy of WHA-TV and their entire staff were most pleasant to work with during this production and everyone involved in this show can never again view television without a more

critical eye to its content. E. Corso, Mt. Horeb, gave his talent as set designer to this summer's "Song of Norway" stage at Tyrol Basin and now is in charge of set design at WHA-TV. James Engsted, Mt. Horeb, was responsible for the outdoor sound and lighting of "Song of Norway" and is now employed in the engineering department of WHA-TV. Schedules of the actual viewing dates of this TV program about "Song of Norway" will be announced soon.

Actually 387 persons paid to see Song that second night. The weather was only slightly better on July 8, yet 900 persons appeared in the audience.

Then good weather arrived, and on July 15 the crowd soared to 1,376. On the twenty-second, 1,806 attended; on the twenty-ninth, 1,820. The figures have never been as high since.

The show was a phenomenal popular success. Lee Vogel awarded "orchids" to the downtown businessmen for their window displays. The Wisconsin State Journal published an editorial congratulating the community. All debts were paid, and there was money to begin planning for 1968.



For years after 1967, weather was not a problem. The atmosphere at Tyrol Basin was often cold and damp, so audiences were advised to carry wraps, no matter how hot the day had been. For ten years, it didn't rain. "It never rains on Song of Norway," said veteran director Inez Learn, shaking her fist at the heavens.

But then in 1977, it did rain, right in the middle of the second act Chocolate Shop scene. Peppi Le Loup had just left the stage, and the Countess (played by Monona Rossol for the first time that season) had just come onstage.

People began fleeing the audience. Rossol told them to wait because rain had never before stopped a show. But the rain worsened, and the show did stop. (Rossol also said it had been jinxed because she was no longer playing Nina.)



Buses at the Cave of the Mounds, ca. 1984, with tourists being greeted by costumed cast members and ushers. Song quickly became a major area attraction.

Photo by Duane W. Hopp

Then in 1979, it rained again, also during the second act, and six buses got stuck in the muddy parking lot at the Cave of the Mounds. In the wake of the mess, the Song's board of directors decided that an audience had seen a show if the first act had been completed — but in fact rain checks routinely are handed out.



In 1982, Song went back to the gym in the Middle School for the first time since 1967. Jack Holzhueter and Greg Dennis directed that year, and all day they kept their eyes peeled to the skies. By mid-afternoon, there was no doubt.

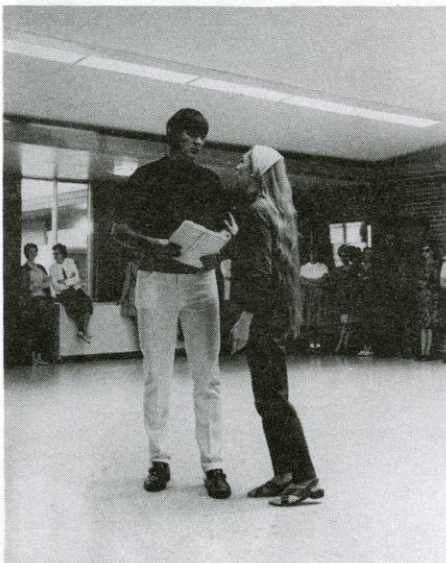
Since then, the show has played three more times in the gym — and veteran cast members dread it. Stage entrances are a nightmare, since there is almost no physical way to enter from stage right; lighting is inadequate; and sound can be devilish depending on accompaniment. Now a decision to move is always made by noon.



*Rain location in the Middle School gym (left and upper right), 1989. Hot, crowded conditions make the cast and crew dread the change from the open spaces at the Cave of the Mounds (lower right), 1984.*



Photo by Duane W. Hopp



*The second Grieg, Robert Christesen, with Monona Rossol (Nina) in a standard rehearsal space—the High School cafeteria, used through the early 1980's.*

But by far the most memorable Song weather experience occurred the summer of 1984, the year of the Barneveld tornado. Almost everyone in the cast had been affected personally by the disaster, either as a volunteer in the clean-up and food services, or as a relative of someone who had lost property or, worse, a family member.

One night during rehearsal, the tornado warning sirens began again. The cast exploded from the stage and headed pell-mell to the Cave of the Mounds building, where most were admitted to the cave itself and waited out an awful thunderstorm before going home. The event became front-page news.

Weather! As long as Song of Norway Festival continues, every show day will be a watch-the-weather day for the directors and producers.



*Forest Johnson, Count, and Lisa Jablow, Countess, outside the Cave's familiar visitor center, 1980. Photo by Burns Studio*



*Welcome and farewell. Bill Brager, fiddle, and Dodie Chapru, accordion, lead young cast members and patrons to the Cave site in 1979. Right: Fires at the end of Act I, ca. 1980. Photos by Duane W. Hopp.*





## PLAYERS AND PARTICIPANTS

Everyone's memories of Song of Norway are highly individual and personal. They begin and end with their own experiences, but there are some common threads.

Long hours of rehearsal. Favorite and not-so-favorite principals and directors. Costume disasters and successes. Bitter competition for such small onstage tasks as carrying the Trolger Pole at the end of Act I. Parties, sketches, and skits. Weather, good and bad. Romances. Finances. And, for the managers, directors, and producers — decisions, decisions, decisions.



Above: the Song of Norway Dancers entertaining a crowd and themselves, probably at a Mount Horeb Art Fair in the early 1980's. Left: Brian Julson (Pisoni) and Stephanie Keller (Countess), both of Mount Horeb, romping through the Chocolate Shop scene, 1982 or 1983.



Photo by Duane W. Hopp

The numbers of memories are daunting. Over the years there have been fifteen Edwards, ten Ninas, nine Rikards, and thirteen Louisas. There have been participants from Aavang to Zweifel—up to 200 individuals a year creating Wisconsin's longest running musical production.

What it all boils down to is that Song has continually evolved over the years, yet it is always based upon the same script and music.

Old-timers find it tough to learn new dances, new phrasing, new staging every year. It is easy to revert when you don't pay attention.

Right: Inez Learn, who was variously Adelina (the Prima Ballerina), choreographer, and stage director, 1967-1977. Below: a family show for both audience and performers, ca. 1974—clockwise from left: two Arnesons, two Johnsons, two Sagers, and five Skalets, with (foreground) one Himself—Charles—who, as Rikard, led children on stage from 1972 to 1983.



Song also has responded to changing public tastes, markets, and competition. Not all decisions occurred because of internal pressures.

What that means, of course, is that the show renews itself annually as a product of new sets of imaginations, new goals, new perceptions. In that respect, it is like every theatrical undertaking.

It differs from the rest, because of its unique setting, its community base, its realistic mix of people on stage (four generations of Skalets once appeared in the Christmas scene), and the affection that reaches out and grabs the audience. May that never change!



Carl Danhouser, both Song treasurer and a gentle Freddy, playing for kids, early 1970's.



Photo by Ray Barth



Right: Dick Helty leaping spectacularly in the Halling, ca. 1973.

Below: Margaret (Peg) Walters as Nina assuring Fred Alley (Grieg—the first from Mount Horeb) that "I Love You," 1983.

Bottom: June Edseth (left) and Mary Hopp (right) dressing Stephanie Keller in the Act II quick change, 1983—the year the dressing room was built.



## Program Listings, 1967-1990

Aavang, Cliff	1980-83
Aavang, Grace	1984-87
Aiuchi, Toshi	1986
Albert, Chris	1984-85
Albert, Floyd	1972-78
Albert, Linda	1969-77
Albert, Martha	1971
Albert, Steve	1983, 85
Allen, Kathleen	1981, 86
Allen, Katy	1968-69
Allen, Tom	1969
Alley, David	1974
Alley, Frederic	1983-84
Amor, Edward	1969
Anderson, John	1968-71, 75-79
Anderson, Mary	1969
Anderson, Sandy (Skamarack)	1974, 77-80
Anderson, Wilford	1971-83
Anderson, (Mrs. Wilford)	1971-83
Archer, Robert	1980
Archer, Shirley	1990
Ameson, Dale	1974-76, 79-85, 88
Ameson, Eleanor	1967-68, 70-86, 88
Ameson, Kim	1971-73
Ameson, Kent	1972-78, 81-83
Ameson, Rayne	1971
Ameson, Troy	1974-78, 80-83
Arnold, Chuck	1984-86
Auerbach, Gail	1980
Austin, Jean	1968
Ayers, Debbie	1972-73
Ayers, Stanley	1975
Baez, Michael	1986
Baker, A.J.	1987-88
Bakken, Eric	1990
Bakken, Erica	1990
Bakken, Kaia	1990
Bakken, Karren	1990
Bakken, Keith	1968
Baltzer, Amy	1987
Bandemer, Cindy	1980
Bandow, Anne (Bednarek)	1981-89
Bandow, Tom	1985
Barber, Michael	1977-79
Barker, Julia	1986-87, 90
Barry, Bob	1981-83
Barth, Linda	1971-72
Barthelemy, Mary	1980
Baseman, Ed	1985
Baseman, Judy	1985
Bauman, Rick	1983
Baures, Jamie	1985
Baxter, Valeri	1983
Becker, David	1985-86
Becker, Lee	1984-85
Becker, Lois	1973-75
Becker, Pete	1973-75
Becknell, Allen	1970-71
Becknell, Arthur	1969-71
Becknell, Steve	1970-71
Bellows, Barbara	1971
Bellows, Carl	1970-73, 76-78
Bellows, Florence	1969-75, 85
Bellows, John	1969-73, 85
Bellow, Kathy	1968-71
Berg, Helen	1971

Continued



Photo by Duane W. Hopp



Photo by Duane W. Hopp



Berg, Lynn	1968
Berge, Dale	1967
Berge, Jacqueline	1967-68
Berge, Martin	1967
Berge, Obert	1967-72
Berge, Prentice	1980-82
Berger, Dick	1990
Bernau, Linda	1984
Bethke, June	1984-85
Black, Lee	1990
Black, Tom	1989-90
Bingham, Brian	1986-87
Bird, Mabel	1975
Bixby, Joanne	1977-78
Board, Gladys	1967-68, 71-72, 75-78, 81
Board, Richard	1967-71
Bodell, Raelynn	1989
Boerth, Susan	1989-90
Bolden, Eric	1986-89
Bollerud, Dan	1967
Bondhus, Beth	1971
Bondhus, Rebecca	1969-71
Boswell, Gunhild	1967
Boswell, Marion	1967-71
Boswell, Richard	1968
Brager, Bill	1968, 70-83
Brager, Evelyn	1970-74
Brager, Gert	1971-90
Braun, Irma	1968-70
Brekke, Barbara	1990
Brice, Dan	1990
Brice, Sue	1983-86
Brink, Craig	1975
Brink, Donald	1972-78
Brink, Karen	1972-78
Brink, Kim	1975-76
Brown, Barbara	1986
Brown, Kathy	1969
Brown, Mary	1969
Brue, Dan	1976-78, 83-90
Brue, Marcia (Roum)	1977-78, 83-90
Brue, Sarah	1990
Bryson, Elma	1971-73
Bucecky, Danica	1975, 80
Buffat, Elise	1987
Bures, B Ann	1982-85
Bures, Didi	1982, 84
Burkum, Carol	1973-86, 89-90
Burkum, Gary	1971-86, 89-90
Burkum, Kari	1979-86, 89
Burkum, Karl	1975-86, 89
Burkum, Kurt	1976-86
Burns, James	1969-75
Burns, Konnie	1970-73
Burns, Lori	1970-73
Burns, Marjorie	1971-90
Burns, Merodee	1975-83
Busch, William	1988-89
Bush, Alison	1986-87
Butler, Sharon	1989
Buxton, Jennifer	1986
Carden, Viola	1970-72
Carmichael, Jane	1968
Carter, G.	1967
Casey, Audrey	1988-90
Caston, John	1970
Cerling, Daniel	1990
Cerling, Diane	1990
Cerling, Ken	1990



Photo by Robert Ames



Above: Maypole Dancers Jon Rask (left) and Joshua Esser backstage, 1987. Right: Steve Johnson (Einar) and Susan Craft (Sigrid) in *Freddy and His Fiddle*, 1987. Below: Randy Swiggum conducting the first Song orchestra, 1984.

Photo by Duane W. Hopp



Photo by Duane W. Hopp

Below: "How quaint! How droll! How beautiful!" *The Countess* (Mozelle Sherman) meets the Bergen rustics, (foreground, from left) Eleanor Arneson (Mother Grieg), Joe Dybdahl, David Dybdahl, Sr. (Father Grieg), 1967 or 1968.







Above: Jim Rensink (Grieg) proves his talent at the piano and vocally to the Countess (Eva Wright) and to Copenhagen admirers, 1975 season. Right: three generations of Dybdahls in the 1971 show, (left to right) David, Sr., Paul (front), Joe, Lolly, Sarah (front), Viola, Naomi, David, Jr. Below: Tom Black, Mount Horeb banker and the second local Grieg (1989-1990) after Fred Alley (1983-1984).



Photo by Mike Patenaude



Cerling, Kristin	1990	Dennis, Joel	1981-82
Chambers, John	1975-77	Detra, Jon	1984-85
Chancellor, Mary	1978	Dettwiler, Peggy	1976
Chancellor, Rick	1971	DeWitt, Ann	1969-75
Chancellor, Sandy	1971-83	DeWitt, Jack	1969-74
Chapru, Dodie	1979-80	Dickinson, Jerry	1983-90
Christesen, Robert	1968	Dickinson, Lolly (Dybdahl)	1967-90
Christofferson, Andrea	1982-88, 89	Dimick, Paul	1968
Clayton, Delores	1973	Doeseckle, Chris	1967
Coberly, Carol	1984	Dolezal, Andrea	1983-86
Coffin, John	1986-89	Dolezal, Crystal	1986
Colbert, Margot	1981-86	Dolezal, Nancy	1986
Collins, Alice	1975-80	Donahue, Mary Esther	1987-88
Collins, Robert	1986	Dorn, Dennis	1982
Collins, Shelly	1986	Doty, Gary	1973-74, 77-78
Cook, Candace	1972-76	Drape, Betty	1984
Corner, Georgia	1983-84	Drape, Jeff	1986-88
Corso, E.	1967-68	Drape, Robert	1984-87
Cowen, Josephine	1986, 88	Durtschi, Walter	1971
Craft, Gene	1985, 88-90	Durtschi, Marion	1971
Craft, Paula	1983-90	Dybdahl, David Jr.	1967-71, 74-75
Craft, Susan	1982-89	Dybdahl, David Sr.	1967-72
Crilley, Laurie	1985-87	Dybdahl, Joe	1967-73
Crilley, Pat	1984-88	Dybdahl, Naomi	1968, 70-72
Curtis, Pat	1973-87	Dybdahl, Paul	1968, 70-74, 77
Curtis, Sarah	1979-87	Dybdahl, Sarah	1968, 70-73, 75-81
Cunneen, Oljanna	1967-87	Dybdahl, Viola	1967-73
Cunneen, Vernon	1972-75	Eckel, Sharon	1974-78
Dahler, Patty	1969	Eckel, Valonne	1967-90
Dangerfield, Diane	1977, 82	Edseth, Bernadette	1983-87
Danhouser, Carl	1969-78	Edseth, Dawnne	1981-85
Danhouser, Grace	1969-74	Edseth, June	1981-87
Dann, Carol	1979-90	Edseth, Verlyn	1981-87
Dann, Melanie	1980-86	Edwards, Laura	1978
Davidson, Genia	1987-88	Ege, Cathy	1969
Davidson, Mary	1987	Ehrlich, Janet	1987
Davis, Sheila	1990	Ellestad, Erik	1980-84
DeLago, Joyce	1971	Ellestad, John	1984-88
Dennis, Daniel	1981-82, 89	Ellestad, Pat	1984-88
Dennis, Diane	1981-82		
Dennis, Greg	1981-82, 89-90		

Continued





**'Song of Norway' promoted in Chicago**

Mount Horeb's "Song of Norway" production received two weeks on the marquee at the Wisconsin Vacation Center, Dept. of Natural Resources, Building on Michigan Avenue in Chicago during June. Mr. and Mrs. Lee Vogel and Dr. and Mrs. Gary Hooks planned and placed a window display of Norwegian Nissen (elves) under a lucky red-capped mushroom at the center.

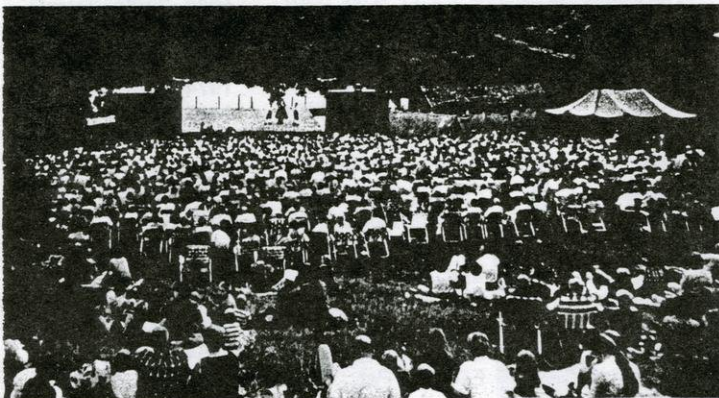
The red-capped mushroom is the symbol of "Song of Norway." Considered good luck in Norway, the mushroom symbolizes the ongoing success of the festival.

According to Janet Sweeney, manager of the center, response to the display has been overwhelming. The "Mount Horeb Vacationer" and attendant brochures for the area have been in record demand at the center.

1974 promotion



Above: Juvenile "troll" under a concrete mushroom—a Song promotional symbol for several years. Below left: record crowd of 1,820 in 1967, a figure never matched since. Below right: Otto Gilbertson (left) in 1974, presenting a gift from Song to the Mount Horeb High School music department, represented by George Zoske, band director and also director of Song, with Irene Gilbertson looking on. Occasional profits enabled such donations in the 1970's.



# Song of Norway

based on the life and music of Edvard Grieg

## ACT I

Scene 1: TROLDHAUGEN (Hill of the Trolls), just outside the town of Bergen, Norway. Midsummer's eve in the 1860's.

Scene 2: A SQUARE ON OUTSKIRTS OF BERGEN

## INTERMISSION -- 20 MINUTES

## ACT II

Scene 1: COPENHAGEN, Reception Room of the Royal Conservatory one year later.

Scene 2: ROME, Ballroom at Villa Pinchio.

Scene 3: TROLDHAUGEN -- Grieg's home -- sometime later.

- FINIS -

## We are grateful

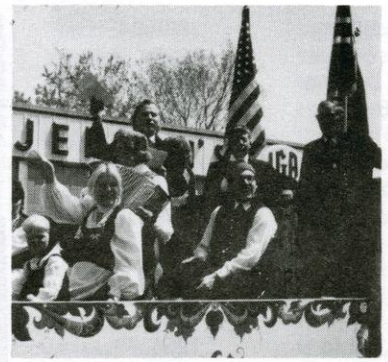
for the use of Tyrol Basin's facilities; the many volunteers -- men, women and children -- who have worked many hard hours on varied projects; the support of the Mount Horeb community and area residents; the support of the Wisconsin Arts Foundation and Council; professional aid by the Wisconsin Idea Theatre; the use of the new #4500 Wurlitzer organ, courtesy of Ward-Brodt Music Company; the use of the piano, courtesy of Forbes-Meagher Music Company; The Mt. Horeb Mail for their printing; and the opportunity to offer an enjoyable evening.





# Cast of Characters

Role Performer City



*Song of Norway float in the Westby Syttende Mai (May 17) parade, 1973. When not in use, the float was parked on Mount Horeb's Main Street as an advertisement. Riders sang Norwegian folk songs at many area parades.*

## Technical Crew

*Production Director, Nancy Stearns, Oregon*

*Music Director, Louis Sherman, Madison*

*Accompanist-organ, Mike Kenny, Madison*

*Pianist, Edward Grieg, Dennis Hirschbein, Madison*

*Set Design, E. Corso, Mt. Horeb*

*Stage Director, Gladys Board, Mt. Horeb*

*Light and Sound, James Engeseth, Mt. Horeb*

*Costume Director, Oljanna Cunneen, Blue Mounds*

*Dance Director, Susan Koller, Mt. Horeb*

*Choreography, "Freddie" Dick Peterson, Mt. Horeb*

*Above: back cover from the first program, 1967, listing only principal figures; later programs listed all participants. Below left: George Zoske directing a Song chorus rehearsal in the High School chorus room, early 1970's. Below right: a page from a Mount Horeb promotional brochure with a rosemaled state seal in the background, ca. 1970.*

*1967 Song of Norway Program*

RIKARD NORDRAAK	Ron Forsmo	Madison
EDVARD GRIEG	Dennis Hirschbein	Madison
NINA HAGERUP	Monona Rossol	Madison
LOUISA GIOVANNI	Moselle Sherman	Madison
COUNT PEPPI LALOUP	Forest Johnson	Mt. Horeb
MOTHER GRIEG	Eleanor Arneson	Mt. Horeb
FATHER GRIEG	David Dybdahl, Sr.	Mt. Horeb
SIGRID	Cheryl Hiser	Madison
EINAR	Dick Ripp	Waunakee
FREDDY	Dick Peterson	Mt. Horeb
FATHER NORDRAAK	G. Carter	Madison
PISONI	Ron Spielman	Mt. Horeb
ADELINA	Inez Learn	Arena
ELVIRA	Susan Iverson	Waunakee
GRETA	Lois Marty	Mt. Horeb
MARGHARETA	Doris Johnson	Mt. Horeb
HEDWIG	Mitzie Skalet	Mt. Horeb
MISS ANDERS	Nancy Vogel	Mt. Horeb
MISS NORDEN	Gunhild Boswell	Mt. Horeb
PROFESSOR	Joe Dybdahl	Black Earth
HENRIK IBSEN	Denis Vehrs	Madison
BUTLER	Martin Berge	Mt. Horeb
ROYALTY	Viola Dybdahl	Black Earth
GRIMA	Susan Koller	Mt. Horeb
	Dale Berge	Blue Mounds
CHILDREN	David Dybdahl, Jr.	Mt. Horeb
	Sherry Hefty	Mt. Horeb
	Susan Skalet	Mt. Horeb
	Jacqueline Berge	Mt. Horeb
	Obert Berge	Blue Mounds
	Richard Board	Mt. Horeb
	Dan Bollerud	Hollandale
	Marion Boswell	Mt. Horeb
	Chris Doeseckle	Blue Mounds
	LaVera Dybdahl	Mt. Horeb
	Valonne Eckel	Blue Mounds
SINGERS, DANCERS	Marianne Hansen	Blue Mounds
	Dean Hefty	Mt. Horeb
	Jeanne Hefty	Mt. Horeb
	Susan Koller	Mt. Horeb
	Jeanne Lunde	Mt. Horeb
	Vernon Lunde	Mt. Horeb
	Larry Severson	Mt. Horeb
	Steve Skalet, Jr.	Mt. Horeb
	Steve Skalet, Sr.	Mt. Horeb
	Lori Thompson	Hollandale
	Steve Thompson	Hollandale
	Dave Koller	Mt. Horeb



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Polly Ann McGinley  
 Gunhild Boswell  
 Clara Anderson  
 Thelma Evenson  
 Oljanna Cunneen  
 Marcelaine Winner



Ellestad, Sonja	1983-84
Ellingson, Todd	1987
Elmer, Darlene	1968
Elver, Beth	1971-72, 74
Elver, Paul	1972, 80-82
Engeseth, James	1967-71
Erickson, Stephanie	1981
Esinger, Sarah	1990
Esser, Joshua	1987-90
Esser, Ken	1987-90
Esser, Mary Carol	1987-90
Esser, Shereen	1987-90
Evans, David	1984, 86
Evenson, Ken	1975
Evenson, Thelma	1972-76, 79
Everson, Mary	1990
Everson, Sara	1990
Falk, Wayne	1982
Fargo, Joan	1987
Faust, Bonnie	1974
Fehling, Dorthea	1970-75
Fehling, Orrin	1970-75
Fink, Arlene	1969
Flick, Kelli	1983-85
Foley, Gloria	1976
Forsmo, Ron	1967-68, 70-71
Fosshage, Carol	1968
Frame, Bob	1977-78
Frame, Tammy	1983
Freeman, LaVergne	1971
Frink, Karen	1987
Garfoot, Dwayne	1974-90
Garfoot, Kitty	1976-82
Gauger, Aimee	1978
Gawlitta, Ramon	1969
George, Andrew	1984, 86
Gerke Jonathan	1986
Gerke, Linda	1984-90
Germain, Glenn	1986
Getler, Kathi	1985
Giegel, John	1988
Giegel, Kathryn	1987-88
Gilbertson, Otto	1971-81
Gilbertson, Irene	1971-81
Glaeve, Sandy	1985
Goar, Kristen	1986
Goplin, Joel	1987
Gore, Andrea	1986
Gould, Tim	1986
Gozlu, Meral	1973
Graf, Rick	1983
Graham, Mary Anne	1983
Grender, David	1978
Grender, Donald	1978
Grender, Wayne	1977-79
Gribb, Marietta	1986-87

Two 1984 views. Act II, Scene 1, Copenhagen. Below: Greg Walters (Grieg) and Cindy Marty (Countess), with (background, from left) Gary Burkum, Carol Burkum, and Paula Craft. Right: the Rev. Mr. Burkum, pastor of Mount Horeb's Immanuel Lutheran Church who played Father Grieg from 1977 through 1986, introduces the Count, Don Parrell, to aquavit—a twist of which most in the audience were unaware.

Photos by Duane W. Hopp



Gross, Martina	1984
Grove, Albert (Bud)	1969-81
Grove, Annalee	1969-81
Grundahl, Betty	1985-88
Grundahl, Henry	1975-85
Guty, Hazel	1975
Haag, Jill	1971-72
Haebig, Alyssa	1988-89
Haebig, Mark	1989
Haebig, Sarah	1988-90
Haebig, Wendy	1988-89
Haig, Tom	1988
Haglund, Jerry	1978-90
Haglund, Joan	1981-85
Haglund, Kristin	1980-86, 90
Haglund, Martin	1968-69
Haglund, Phyllis	1978-83
Haglund, Todd	1989-90
Haglund, Trygve	1989-90
Hall, Bob	1975
Hall, Joanne	1988-90
Hall, Marit	1988-90
Hall, Matthew	1988-90
Hall, Mitchell	1988-90
Hall, Steve	1988-90
Hanna, Kris	1983, 85-86



Hanneman, Eileen	1970
Hansen, Marianne	1967-71
Hanson, Barbara	1976
Hanson, Sharon	1978
Harper, Julia	1969, 71-72, 74-77, 79-80
Haswell, Susan	1981
Haug, Sue	1971
Haugen, Kris	1971
Hayes, Chuck	1981, 84-86
Hayes, Doris	1981, 84-86
Hefty, Dean	1967-90
Hefty, Jeanne	1967-90
Hefty, Michelle	1967-83, 86
Hefty, Ray	1971-76
Hefty, Sherri	1967-90
Helfert, Charlie	1969
Helgeson, Kennell	1981-82
Hembel, Hali	1984
Hembel, Patricia	1985
Hemke, Beth	1972
Hemke, Frederick	1972-75
Henderson, Carina	1985
Henderson, Susan (Skalet)	1967-68, 70-73
Henderson, Tara	1983-85
Henderson, Tom	1984-85
Hensen, Tom	1980-81
Herbst, Jeff	1981
Hermann, Jeff	1974-76
Highton, Audrey	1979
Hildebrand, Daniel	1984
Himsel, Charles	1972-83
Himsel, Rita	1972-79
Hirschbein, Dennis	1967
Hiser, Cheryl	1967-68
Hiser, Dana	1969
Hocking, Bobbette	1989
Hodgson, Aeneas	1987
Hodgson, Milo	1987-88

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Below: Trolger scene in 1984, with girls picking the cakes in which are hidden the boys' names—names known only to the trolls and a tight-lipped Mother Grieg. Right: Rebecca Stauffer in 1981, a member of the wardrobe crew, modelling one of the new ball gowns created that year, along with other new costumes, by thirty local seamstresses.  
Photos by Duane W. Hopp.



Ihasz, Dan	1985-86
Ignatius, Joseph	1987-90
Iliff, Donald	1973
Iliff, Judy	1968, 71, 73-74
Ingle, Lisa	1987
Israel, Barbara	1988-90
Ivens, John	1983-85, 87
Iverson, Susan	1967
Jablow, Lisa	1980-81
Jackson, Al	1985-90
Jacobs, Jill	1984
Jacquint-Rowe, Wendy	1985-86
Janes, Ralph	1981
Janssen, Amber	1990
Janssen, William	1989-90
Jelle, Beth	1979
Jenison, Jane	1975-76
Jenison, Robert	1976
Jennings, Amy	1986
Jennings, Judy	1986, 88-89
Jennings, Melissa	1986
Jennings, Michael	1986, 88-89
Johnson, Amy	1990
Johnson, Anne	1968
Johnson, Annette	1971-77
Johnson, Ben	1990
Johnson, Bert	1975-77
Johnson, Betty	1971-77
Johnson, Bill	1985-90
Johnson, Carl	1975
Johnson, Carol	1985-90
Johnson, Dale	1975-78, 84-89
Johnson, Doris	1967-75
Johnson, Dorothy	1971-75
Johnson, Dustin	1979-80
Johnson, Evelyn	1979-81
Johnson, Forest	1967-85
Johnson, Fred	1968-77
Johnson, G. Michael	1978

*Continued*

Hoffmaster, Sandy	1969, 71-78
Holland, Eric	1988
Hollfelder, Kevin	1985-86
Hollfelder, Renee	1983-85, 88-90
Hollfelder, Roger	1990
Hollfelder, Trudy	1990
Holzhueter, Jack	1977, 79-89
Homrig, Bethany	1989-90
Homrig, Diana	1989-90
Homrig, Erika	1989-90
Homrig, John	1989-90
Hopp, Duane	1981-87
Hopp, Heather	1979-82, 85
Hopp, Mark	1981-83
Hopp, Mary Ann	1981-85
Horn, Caroline	1984-89
Horn, DeAnne	1979-90

Horn, Kristi	1980-84
Horn, Matthew	1979-90
Horn, Richard	1979-89
Horne, Del	1971-72
Horne, Mary	1972
Horton, Heather	1986-87
Hood, Darin	1984-85
Hooks, Gary	1975
Hooks, Judy	1973-75, 78
Hottman, David	1973
Hrubesky, Jim	1987-88
Hubbard, David	1983
Hubbard, Jane	1983-84
Hubbard, Kris	1983-84
Hull, Mark	1980
Huntington, Ted	1970-72
Hutter, Geoff	1989

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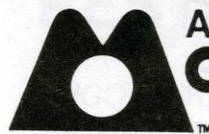
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 Johnson, Janelle 1971-74, 79  
 Johnson, Jenny 1977-87  
 Johnson, Jerilyn 1971-72  
 Johnson, Kent 1975-80, 83  
 Johnson, Kenton 1979-81, 83-87  
 Johnson, Laurie 1975  
 Johnson, Lyle 1985-90  
 Johnson, Mark 1971, 73  
 Johnson, Marli 1983-85  
 Johnson, Mary Ann 1984-87  
 Johnson, Mitzi 1977-78, 84-90  
 Johnson, Patricia 1972-73, 75  
 Johnson, Ted 1968-  
 Jorenby, Susan 1970-71  
 Julson, Brian 1973-84  
 Julson, Donald 1974, 77-78  
 Julson, Elizabeth 1983-84  
 Julson, Emma 1973-81  
 Kalbacken, Betty 1985-86  
 Kalina, Dorothy 1971-80  
 Kalina, Margaret 1979  
 Kausch, Chris 1984  
 Kausch, Tanya 1988  
 Keller, Joanne 1968, 70-71  
 Keller, Lois 1976

Keller, Rachel 1983  
 Keller, Stephanie 1981-83  
 Kenney, Mike 1967  
 Kent, Bronwen 1985  
 Kim, Julie 1984  
 Kingslien, Amanda 1988  
 Kingslien, Jennifer 1988  
 Kingslien, Peter 1988  
 Kjervik, Mona 1971  
 Kleppe, Andres 1971, 84-87  
 Klir, Mary 1968-71  
 Klusendorf, Ann 1968-72, 81, 86  
 Kohl, Janice 1974  
 Koller, Dave 1967  
 Koller, Susan 1967  
 Kramer, James 1988  
 Krattiger, Karen 1974-78  
 Krohn, Meg 1984-86  
 Krohn, Sarah 1983-87  
 Kunish, Ann 1986  
 Ladwig, Rhonda 1988  
 Landen, Virginia 1969  
 Landmark, Jerry 1984-90  
 Landmark, Judy 1968  
 Landmark, Julia 1968-69  
 Landmark, Julie 1984-90



*The Spirit of Norway, ca. 1983*  
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Larson, Gunnar	1977-79	Lukens, Larry	1972	May, Sara	1984
Lawrence, David	1989	Lund, Emma	1984	May, Tim	1988-89
Lawrence, Drew	1979	Lund, Karen	1968	McCann, Steve	1983
Lawrence, Lisa	1989	Lund, Ray	1984	McElroy, Kathleen	1986-87
Learn, Elizabeth	1970-74	Lunde, Jeanne	1967-69	McLaughlin, Nancy	1968-69, 74
Learn, Inez	1967, 70-78	Lunde, Vern	1967-69	McLoughlin, Brian	1990
Learn, Jeremy Jr.	1970-72	MacCormick, Alasdair	1973-77	McLoughlin, Nicole	1989-90
Learn, Jeremy Sr.	1971-81	MacLean, Lola	1971-72	McLoughlin, Simone	1990
Lee, Kenneth	1986-87	MacPherson, Scott	1986-87	Mealy, Chris	1971
Lee, Shelly (Arneson)	1970, 72, 82	Magnuson, Gwen	1982-84	Mealy, Mike	1971
LeFevre, Suzanne	1987	Manalo, Anne Marie	1984	Meier, Mark	1986
Lehew, Cynthia	1987	Mann, Julia	1982-84	Michaels, Cary	1987
Lehner, Heidi	1980, 82	Marquart, Stephen	1972	Midthun, Evelyn	1975
Lehner, Mary	1980-84	Martin, Becky	1985	Mielke, Thomas	1988-89
Leuzinger, Erin	1988	Martin, David	1985	Milas, Noel	1985-86
Lewis, Gail	1984	Martin, Gladys	1969-76	Miller, Daniel	1984-85
Lin, Al	1984	Martin, Jennifer	1985	Miller, David	1986
Lind, Chris	1989	Martin, Linda	1985	Miller, Julianne	1984-85
Lind, Jana	1989	Martin, Phil	1980	Miller, Ken	1987
Lind, Olaf	1989	Marty, Cindy	1984	Miller, Mary Ellen	1985
Lingard, Clara	1969	Marty, Lois	1967	Misky, Charles	1984-86
Locher, Kim	1972	Massey, David	1980-81	Misky, Pauline	1984-86
Lohmar, Ann	1986	Massey, Dina	1980-81	Mitchell, Melanie	1988
Lowell, Helen	1973	Massey, Kari	1979, 81		
Lowell, Mark	1972	Mathews, James	1969, 72-73		

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Moen, Terry	1984	Parrell, Marguerite	1983-90	Reinke, Ted	1974-76, 80-89
Moffett, Chad	1984-85	Patenaude, Dena	1983-86	Rensink, James	1974-76
Moffett, Les	1985	Patenaude, Joel	1982-85, 87	Retzlaff, Coleman	1986
Moffett, Nancy	1985	Patenaude, Judy	1982-84	Retzlaff, Sue	1987
Moffett, Sharon	1985	Patenaude, Mike	1982-84	Rewey, Chris	1987
Mohr, Beverly	1978, 81	Peck, William	1984	Rexroat, Ralph	1972-73, 75
Mohr, Lawrence	1978, 81	Pekowksy, Susie	1977	Rhodes, Linda	1970-71
Moll, Kathy	1971	Peters, Betsey	1969-72	Richards, Dave	1981
Morey, Jody (Zimmel)	1977-90	Peters, Betty	1971-77	Richardson, David	1987
Morton, Paula	1981	Peters, Carlson	1970-72	Richardson, Sharon	1983
Moyer, David	1984-85	Peters, Chuck	1972-73	Richter, Meg	1986-87
Mudrey, Andrea	1986	Peters, Elly	1969-72	Rickerson, Richard	1982-85
Mudrey, Katie	1985-87	Peterson, Alice	1972-73	Rickerson, Sandy	1985
Mudrey, Lynn	1985-90	Peterson, Amy	1972-73	Ringeisen, Joe	1980
Mudrey, Michael	1985-90	Peterson, Dick	1967-68	Ringgenberg, Sharon	1971-73
Nagle, Jim	1989	Peterson, Donald	1982	Riphahn, Carol	1984-87
Narf, Marie	1984	Peterson, Gary	1979	Riphahn, Mary Lou	1969
Narr, Cindy	1986-87	Peterson, Harvey	1973	Riphahn, Pete	1984-86
Neirby, Kathleen	1987	Peterson, Virginia	1988-90	Ritschard, Tony	1981
Nereim, Anne	1969	Pfister, Angela	1969-71	Roberts-Thompson, Cynthia	1981
Nolten, Steven	1987	Phillips, Brett	1987, 90	Robinson, Alverna	1984-86
Norslien, Arnold	1969-72, 75-90	Phillips, Kim	1987-90	Robinson, Lloyd	1984-85
Norslien, Laura	1969-90	Phillips, Kris	1982-86	Rock, Kevin	1968-70, 75-77
Norslien, Laurie	1971-81	Phillips, Lynn	1988	Rooney, Mark	1980-83
O'Brien, Helen	1970-71	Phillips, Orville	1987-90	Rooney, Mike	1980-81
Odegaard, Ida	1971-84	Phillips, Pat	1987-90	Rosal, Arcenia	1976
Odegaard, Thorvald	1971-84	Phillips, Scott	1987	Rossol, Monona	1967-85
Opsal, Dale	1971-74, 78-84	Phillips, Tamara	1987-89	Roum, Charles	1976-90
Opsal, Rubelle	1969, 71-74, 1978-84	Pierce, Bonnie	1979	Roum, Marilyn	1976-90
Opsal, Paulette	1969	Pierce, Nathaniel	1986	Rouse, Gene	1989
Osterholz, Amy	1985	Pierce, Solon IV	1986	Rowe, Jim	1985
Ostern, Richard	1990	Post, Jeff	1969-75	Rowland, Kari	1980
Owen, Vicki	1973-74	Post, Mary Jo	1971-76, 78	Ruste, Vic	1977-78
Oxley, Michael	1988-89	Post, Wanda	1978	Sager, Diane	1971-75
Palmer, Marsha	1984	Prunuske, Irene	1969-75	Sager, Leslie	1971-73, 75
Palzkill, Cathy	1990	Ranum, Mark	1972	Sager, Phil	1971-74
Pape, Alan	1969-71	Rask, Arnold	1984-90	Sager, Robert	1970-76
Pape, Marilyn	1970-71	Rask, Francine	1983-90	Sager, Winchell	197
Parent, David	1981-85	Rask, Heidi	1983-87	Sailing, Shari	1981-83
		Rask, Jon	1983-87	Scharer, Ann	1986

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Scheckler, Megan 1988  
 Schiefelbein, Heidi 1977-86  
 Schiefelbein, Sharon 1975  
 Schlafer, Patty 1990  
 Schlies, Debra 1986-87  
 Schmelger, Scott 1984-85  
 Schmicker, Brad 1985-87  
 Schmitter, Elizabeth 1987  
 Schneeberg, Mark 1988  
 Schulz, Judy 1985  
 Schulz, Kathy 1975-78  
 Schulz, Marcella 1972-87  
 Seaman, Trischa 1986  
 Seibert, Maureen 1984  
 Severson, Cathy 1978-79, 82-85, 87  
 Severtson, Larry 1967-73  
 Severtson, Margaret 1969-71  
 Severtson, Marilyn 1971  
 Shakelford, Fleta 1984-90  
 Sherman, Clark 1968  
 Sherman, Gayla 1968-69  
 Sherman, Louis 1967-69  
 Sherman, Mozelle 1967-69  
 Sievers, George 1969-78  
 Skala, Christine 1987  
 Skalet, Beth 1968, 70-76  
 Skalet, Craig 1968  
 Skalet, Ethel 1986-89  
 Skalet, Grace 1981-87  
 Skalet, Grant 1981-87  
 Skalet, Inez 1968-85  
 Skalet, Ingerid 1986-89  
 Skalet, Joel 1972-84  
 Skalet, Kristi 1968-73  
 Skalet, Melissa 1972-83  
 Skalet, Mitzie 1967-85  
 Skalet, Phil 1989  
 Skalet, Randy 1968, 72-73, 75-76  
 Skalet, Steve Jr. 1967-68, 70-85  
 Skalet, Steve Sr. 1967-87  
 Skalet, Wendy 1968, 70-77, 79-81

Skamarak, Cindy 1977, 85  
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 Skinrud, Eric 1971-78, 84  
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 Smiley, Deanna 1980  
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 Smith, Mark 1978  
 Sorenson, Curt 1974-77, 79  
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 Sowl, Bonnie 1988  
 Spaanem, Selma 1969  
 Spielman, Jennifer 1968, 70-78  
 Sponem, Barbara 1972  
 Stansfield, Jeanne 1971-72, 74-75  
 Stansfield, Leah 1972, 74-75  
 Stansfield, Lynette 1971-72, 74-75  
 Stansfield, Philip 1974-75  
 Stansfield, Stephen 1974-75  
 Staszewski, Elaine 1968  
 Stauffer, Rebecca 1978-81  
 Stearns, Nancy 1967-68  
 Steffen, Teresa 1986  
 Steinhauer, Charlie 1968  
 Steinhauer, Judy 1975  
 Stevens, Susan 1985-87  
 Stevenson, Donald 1984-85  
 Stevenson, Nancy 1971-78  
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 Stevenson, Sanford 1978-79  
 Stevenson, Donna 1978-79  
 Stewart, Matt 1986  
 Stoll, Brian 1984, 87  
 Stone, Andy 1984-86  
 Stone, Jeff 1986-87  
 Stone, Lynn 1969  
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 Storkson, Anna 1976  
 Storkson, Sara 1977-78  
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Strmiska, Ken 1986  
 Stuiber, Heidi 1982-83  
 Sunby, Sherri (Brager) 1974-76  
 Sundell, Matt 1984  
 Sutter, Greg 1972  
 Sutter, Julia 1975-76  
 Sutter, Tom 1984-85  
 Swain, Al 1975-85  
 Swain, Astrid 1975-85  
 Swain, Marianne 1976  
 Swain, Philip 1976  
 Swain, Steve 1976  
 Swiggum, Lisa 1986  
 Swiggum, Randy 1976, 83-85  
 Syverud, S.C. 1971-87  
 Syverud, Hazel 1971-87  
 Taylor, Amy 1989  
 Taylor, Doug 1989  
 Thomas, Ed 1987  
 Thompson, Beth 1984-85  
 Thompson, Dorie Ann 1971  
 Thompson, Janet 1971-74  
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 Thompson, Steve 1967  
 Thorsen, Shelly 1984  
 Thousand, Eleanor 1969, 73, 75-76  
 Thronson, Mildred 1984-90  
 Thrush, Valerie 1968-69  
 Toame, Daniela 1990  
 Tomaw, Phyllis 1981  
 Tomlinson, Vivian 1985  
 Torphy, Helen 1977  
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 Underwood, Chris 1971-73  
 Underwood, Donald 1977-78  
 Underwood, Joan 1973-82  
 Underwood, June 1972-81

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Varney, Donna	1987	Wittwer, Mary	1983
Varney, Mike	1987	Woller, Tammy	1986
Vehrs, Denis	1967	Woller, Tim	1986
Vesch, Norma	1968	Wright, Eva	1975
Vogel, Lee	1972-79	Wyngaard, Jane	1985-86
Vogel, Nancy	1967-68, 70-77	Yeazel, Steve	1984
Wahlgren, Darlene	1973, 75, 77	Young, Gloria	1979
Wahlgren, Gordon	1981-82	Young, Joyce	1979-82
Walker, Jennifer	1990	Young, Karin	1979-83, 85
Walker, Sue	1990	Young, Kirstin	1979-83
Wallace, Jennifer	1984-85	Young, Bill	1980-84
Wallow, Tom	1984	Zarndt, Carol	1973-74
Walters, Greg	1981-87	Zarndt, Jim	1968-69
Walters, Margaret	1982-87	Zentner, Betty	1984-87
Wang, Adele	1984	Zimmel, John	1977-80
Way, Jim	1968-75	Zoske, George	1971-75
Webber, John	1983-86	Zoske, Joyce	1972-75
Weckerly, Brenda	1984	Zoske, Paul	1973-75
Werling, Sara	1986	Zoske, Mark	1972-75
Werner, Paula	1990	Zwald, Albert	1971-72
White, Steve	1969	Zwald, Regina	1971-72
Williams, Neil	1987	Zwiefel, Erwin	1986
Winnie, Rebecca	1984, 86	Zwiefel, Jenny	1986



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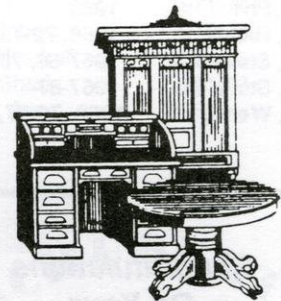
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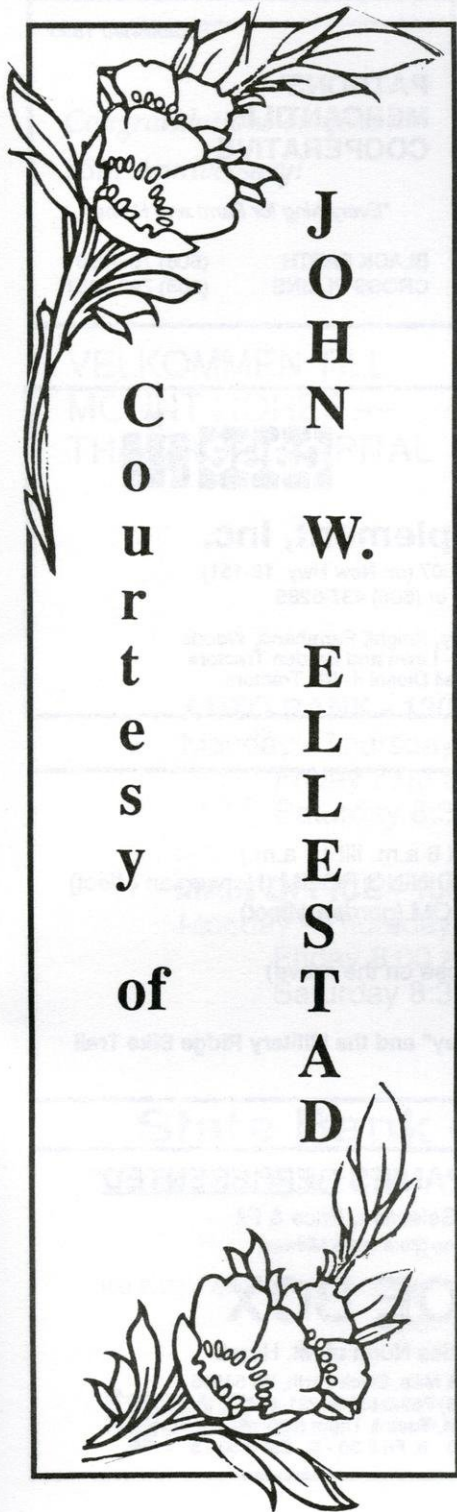
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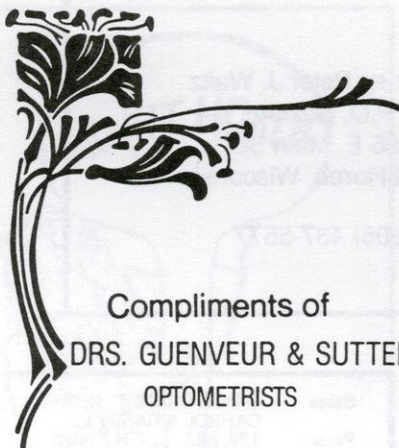
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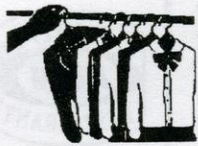
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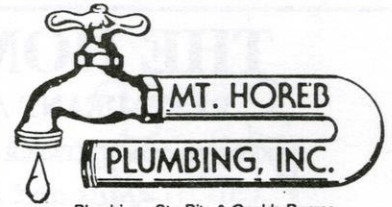


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Photo by Duane W. Hopp



Photo by Duane W. Hopp

Above left: Forest Johnson (Count) writing in his journal or an article for the Mount Horeb Mail, backstage about 1984. Above right: Maypole at the Cave site, 1982 or 1983. Below left: Dancers awaiting their turn, late 1960's or early 1970's. Below right: the final scene, Trolldhaugen at Christmas, "Where we always wanted to be," James Rensink (Grieg) and Monona Rossol (Nina), 1974 season.



Photo by Mary North Allen



Photo by Ray Barth



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# SONG OF NORWAY

25TH REUNION

July 27, 1991

## COMMENTS AND REMINISCENCES

"I'm in San Francisco, California and still a Respiratory Therapist. I am also a Hula Sister and sing Jumpin Rhythem & Blues with 2 other women and a four-piece band. We have 1 album out and hope to have a 2nd out before Christmas '91 on a major/minor label--we are not picky. We are touring in Wisconsin June 26-July 7th ending up at Summerfest, Sunday the 7th. Madison Crystal Corner (on) June 27 and Madison Club De Wash, July 6. Thanks for thinking of me!"

Ellen Peters  
San Francisco, California

"Enjoying life in the San Diego area! Would have liked to join this reunion. We both have fond memories of Tryol Basin and Mt. Horeb and Song of Norway."

Chuck & Betty Peters  
San Diego, California

"Bud Grove and I served as part of the back stage crew for many years. Bud died seven years ago. I remarried 1½ years ago and now live in Madison. I still recall the fun and the happy memories from those days. Continued Good Luck!"

Casey Grove-Sundby  
Madison, Wisconsin

"Happy 25th! May you have another 25 years!"

Gloria J. Jarvis

"Am performing in the Savoyards production of "Patience" that weekend (of the reunion)."

Megan O'Leary  
Madison, Wisconsin

"I'd love to come and spend an afternoon getting reacquainted with my Song of Norway friends, but my husband and I are expecting our first child on August 8, and we don't want to travel too far from our home in Wausau, Wis. I work at Wausau West HS as a German and English as a second language teacher. My husband, Dan, also works as a general music teacher at Franklin Elementary School in Wausau. I hope to make it to Mt. Horeb next summer to see Song of Norway."

Shari (Sailing) Larson  
Wausau, Wisconsin



"After working with youth for many years in Alaska, I went back to school in Dubuque, Iowa and am now a pastor in Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Anchorage, Alaska.

Wondering that 1st year if it would go over and then looking out on the hillside and seeing all the people that 1st performance, and then watching the crowds grow each week. I was in the Song in '67 the summer after high school."

Rev. Daniel Bollerud  
Anchorage, Alaska

"I have fond memories of performing with the Song of Norway and the beautiful countryside. After graduating from the UW I obtained an M.S. from U. of Conn. in Microbiology and met my husband while in school there. We moved to Phoenix for his first job and then to Los Angeles where Jeff took a position with the Northrup Corp. I am working for Baxter Healthcare Corp. in viral research. We are expecting our first child in February. I miss you all.

I've always loved music and there were some great mentors in the group for me to look up to. I also developed a deep appreciation for the amount of work that takes place behind the scenes which helps me enjoy opera and theatre today so much more."

Candace (Cook) Bunch  
Duarte, California

"I had a two year experience as Freddy the Fiddler. That made me more interested in the Song of Norway Festival, its colorful scenes of pageant and talented performers."

Kennell Helgeson  
Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin

"How nice that you have planned this reunion! I was on the board until we moved from Mt. Horeb when Ken died. It was fun promoting Song of Norway and even had a chance to serve coffee to Mayor of Madison (maybe it was Governor of Wisconsin!) and Byron Ostby who is the Norwegian Vice-Counselor in Wisconsin. Had my dishes from Norway to serve them coffee. Enjoyed planning and preparing food for the last performance while in Mt. Horeb. Still am taking tour groups every year to Norway.

Had a lot to do with the meal we served in Chicago to introduce Song of Norway. I enjoyed being on the board from the beginning and until I had to give up some activities because of Ken's health problems. Had a lot of friends for dinner the nights we had the Song of Norway so we could take them there for a very special evening of good music and all those being part of it. I did have charge of some parties the last night of performance and cooked a lot of food recommended especially by Forest and Doris!"

Thelma Evenson  
Madison, Wisconsin



"Thanks for the invitation. Wish I could join you! Living in King, North Carolina at the foothills of the Blue Ridge. We have an architectural antique business and I'm an interior designer. I still miss Wisconsin but don't get to visit very often.

Being a part of this production was one of the most wonderful experiences of my life in the Midwest. I think about it often and plan to get back there for a performance one of these days."

Carolyn (Schwalbe) Landreth  
King, North Carolina

"Recording a variety of images on film is always a challenge. Photographing Song was also fun--faces, colorful costumes, emotion, the joy of youth--images that reflected the spirit of hometown theatre. It's too bad that a still photograph can't have a soundtrack--such beautiful music.

I "retired" in May of '86 due to the onset of Multiple Sclerosis. My active lifestyle has changed; my culinary efforts have improved, a book is in the works, and I find retirement to be BUSY!"

Duane, Mary Ann & Heather Hopp  
Madison, Wisconsin

"I'm still in music. Organist at Temple Beth El, the University Hospital and the V.A. Hospital. I'm still accompanying Philharmonic Chorus of Madison, and I was the first female to join Madison South Rotary. I play for them and also the Golden K Kiwanis Club of Madison as well as on monthly visits to 4 and sometimes 5 of the area nursing homes.

My youngest daughter, Debbie, turned pages and brushed bugs off the music for me. We were greeted (usually) by a large bull frog in the pond as we entered the grounds. My next to youngest daughter, Libby, worked back stage. And we all loved it! Also the chicken we used to get at the A&W Root Beer Stand!"

Julia Landmark Foster  
Madison, Wisconsin

"Ron is Vice President of Banc One, Wis. Trust Company in Monroe, Wisconsin. Jennifer works for the Monroe Public School System."

Ron and Jennifer (Ayers) Spielman  
Monroe, Wisconsin

"I am living in northern California with my husband and 2 sons; Eric, 20 months and Paul, 1 month. I still take dance classes when I have the time and work as a nurse 3 days a week.

Rebecca Bondhus-Colley  
Groton, California



"Managing Director--Environmental Risk Management Services for Willis Corroon in Nashville, TN. Willis Corroon PLC is the third largest insurance brokerage firm in the world.

In retrospect the years on stage in Song and as a tour guide at Cave of the Mounds probably were as important as my years in college. I'm on stage alot in my job now. The experience I gained in Mt. Horeb was very valuable."

David Dybdahl, Jr.  
Brentwood, Tennessee

"John and I have been retired for four years and live in Bellingham, WA, north of Seattle, where the golf is great and salt-water sailing even better. Our daughter Kathy is with United Airlines in Seattle and Carl is an engineer in Seattle. Barb is doing PhD research in Costa Rica. All married--no kids! We all enjoyed our years with Song of Norway.

We probably attended 90-100 performances and Grieg's music has stayed with us, along with the words put to it. We have classical music stations from Vancouver, B.C. and Seattle on frequently and we are surprisingly often reminded of Song; its performances and its settings. We also quote favorite lines frequently, e.g., 'Now--not tomorrow--but now!'"

John and Florence Bellows  
Bellingham, Washington

"We have been in New Jersey for 6 years. Kris just graduated from HS and will be attending George Washington University. Mark is an 8th grader and very involved in soccer. Jan is now teaching Special Education.

I think I remember best the 'tornado' alert out at the Mounds where the entire cast ended up in the Cave for an hour or more. Kristen remembers a girl in the cast that could whistle and hum at the same time!"

Jan Hubbard  
Medford Lakes, New Jersey

"We now live in Prairie du Sac, WI where Gary has a practice specializing in chiropractic orthopedics. Judy is office manager. Our family is grown.

Through Song we met co-founders Lee and Nancy Vogel and a host of other friends who have grown dearer with time. Our experience also provided a focus for family fun and a real sense of community for our children."

Gary and Judy Hooks  
Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin

"Sorry, I can't make it! I'll be in the Grand Canyon on the 27th!"

David Hottman  
Madison, Wisconsin

"Always enjoyed selling tickets and visiting with the people. Hope it can continue on for many more years."

Betty Zentner



"While Eleanor Arneson and I were waiting to go on for our first entrance at the Gym, on opening night in 1967, Monona (Nina) asked me how I felt--I told her that I felt like tinkling in my knickers--Monona said, 'Good, that's how you're supposed to feel!'

It is the responsibility of a community to give it's people some of the best--think of the hundreds of people who, because of Song have heard some of the best music--can't think of anything that has impacted on the area more than this show. It's continued success has been a miracle--plus a lot of hard work!"

David Dybdahl  
Black Earth, Wisconsin

"I live on a farm with my husband in Western Australia. We have about 3,000 acres, 2,000 sheep and grow wheat and barley. Though we would love to be there for the reunion, I am afraid it is a bit too far to go. Hope you have a wonderful reunion and a great season.

I was involved with Song of Norway for about 10 years. I helped out backstage, helped with make-up, sang on stage as one of the townspeople, sang with the Song of Norway Singers and for a few years on the Board as treasurer. I thoroughly enjoyed all of my involvement with Song! I loved the music, the singing, the dancing, and meeting some wonderful people!

I think being on an outdoor stage made it a unique experience. I remember standing on stage in an off-the-shoulder ballgown, turning blue from the cold and trying to keep my teeth from chattering and singing at the same time. I also remembered opening my mouth to sing and swallowing a bug (of which there were many attracted by the lights) and trying to pretend that nothing happened and not spit and splutter and carry on. After all, the show must go on! I remember watching the skies many times and praying that it wouldn't rain just minutes before the show was due to start. I remember singing in the rain and the audience watching us, holding umbrellas. I remember a dog walking on stage once during a performance and stealing the show! I remember it all as a really wonderful experience! My only regret is that I won't be able to be there with you to share in this reunion. But know that my heart is there with you and I hope you all have a really wonderful reunion and another great season!"

Dorothy (Kalina) Moore  
Pingrup, Western Australia

"I loved the warmth, kindness and generosity of spirit shown me by all of the company. I wish you the very best."

Ed Amor  
Madison, Wisconsin

"I really enjoyed being part of the Song family during my years in the chorus and as one of the Spring Dancers. The rehearsals, the performances and the cast parties were all a special part of the caring and warmth I felt and will always remember fondly.

I am living in the Appleton area with my husband, Dave, and 2½ year old son, Ross. I am currently pursuing a Masters Degree in the school counseling program at UW-Oshkosh and I plan to graduate next May."

Kathy (Schulz) Vanden Boogaard  
Little Chute, Wisconsin



"(I) sang in Song in the chorus in 1970 and graduated from UW in '72. Came back to the UW in 1990 to perform in Alumni production of 'Ariadne Auf Naxos.' Have performed with: Florentine Opera (Milwaukee), Milwaukee Opera Co., Great Lakes Opera Co., (Milwaukee), Skylight Opera (Milwaukee), Music Under the Stars (Milwaukee), Madison Opera, Madison Theatre Guild, Madison Civic Rep., Phi Beta and more.

I only sang one summer (1970) but I'll never forget it. It was a wonderful experience, loads of real fun and I met some great people. Love and luck to all."

Ramon Gawlitta  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

"How I wish I could be there! My thoughts certainly will be. I already faxed a short statement to Jack about what Song meant to me. Have a wonderful reunion!"

Monona Rossol  
New York, New York

"The reunion is a great idea. Have fun! I will be in Washington, D.C. attending a summer institute for teachers sponsored by the National Geographic Society. I'm a middle school teacher and have been to Norway 3 times since my Song experience. Grieg's home in Bergen is charming.

I was the 'coffee lady' for a year or 2(?) It was fun to watch the people arrive with their chairs and blankets. I loved seeing the variety of Norwegian sweaters people wore to ward off the chill of the night air at Tyrol Basin. It was an experience to witness Jiggs and Oljanna work the crowd as they seated them on the hillside and exchanged stories and jokes with the visitors. The magical moment for me was when the sun dipped below the rim of the Tyrol and the music began. You could almost see the nisse and trolls cavorting in the background."

Beth Elver  
Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin

"I am living in central California, married with 2 children; have my own business. My family and my husband's employer are in Wisconsin, so we do get back occasionally.

I truly enjoyed the fellowship, music, and dancing that Song had to offer. It was an exciting experience working with such great talent!"

Carol (Zarndt) Salvador  
California

"Del & I both enjoyed the friendship and fellowship we had and still do maintain. The only reason we stopped was the distance we drove and with work starting early the next morning.

I certainly enjoyed singing in Song. It brought me many happy memories and such enjoyment of God's beauty and his gift to so many people with beautiful voices. Certainly God given talent. It's fun to tell my 4th grade students about the Norwegian Song of Norway."

Mary (Klir) and Del Horne  
Dodgeville, Wisconsin



"Too bad we can't make it. Unfortunately living in Florida does have a few drawbacks. Been here since 1974. What a great experience this was for my husband and I to be so lucky to be part of the first production of Song of Norway. Since that summer Dick and I have married and have been able to go to Bergen, Norway and really commune with Grieg and all of this beautiful music. We are celebrating 20 years of marriage this summer, and have 2 adopted children. Thanks for asking us. Have a wonderful reunion!"

Dick and Sue (Iverson) Ripp  
Fort Myers, Florida

"I hadn't done any acting since high school, about (X) years ago. I had a ball, even though the memory isn't what it used to be (or is it?) and the lines were harder to retain. The entire production staff were fun to work with."

Dick Ostern (Papa Grieg)  
Madison, Wisconsin

"That first year we were in Song dancers and so also in the performance which meant we were gone many nights either performing with the dancers or rehearsing with the cast. After 6 straight nights of having the babysitter put the boys to bed, I had to call her to find out what time they were going down."

Jeanne Lunde  
Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin

"Congratulations! To ALL who have participated in the Song of Norway musical for 25 years. You have given of your time, energy and talent. We commend your dedication of the performance for our community and other places. Many people come from many states and cities for the performances and enjoy the evening. I have enjoyed the performance for many years. I also enjoy hearing the comments on our colorful bunads while we are handing out the programs and taking their tickets. The evening is pleasant and enjoyable."

Fleta Shackelford  
Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin

"I have helped take tickets and hand out programs for several years. I have a Norwegian bunad which I have worn and it has always been a special occasion to be able to help the Song of Norway production."

Mildred Thronson  
Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin

"The performances were always exciting: the backstage slightly hectic with makeup and dressing; peeking to see who and how many were out there tonight; worry about threatened weather, etc. Yet to me the highlight each year were the parties. Good people, good music and dance, of course, good food and drink ... but mostly, good people!"

Bob Sager



"Thanks for finding me up here in the Twin Cities, where I'm making myself useful in the human services, and enjoying the Guthrie Theatre and other great arts activities--and working on writing a play! Looking forward to seeing you all! (I'll be attending with my daughter who was born when Song of Norway was born!)

Nancy Stearns  
River Falls, Wisconsin

"We have lived in southern Florida since December, 1979 and love it. Our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren live here for the most part. Gunhild (Goodie) will be going to the Holy Land in November. Boz (Marion) does not care to go. He is very busy helping working at St. Peters Episcopal Church, where our son-in-law is Dean of the Cathedral.

Marion and I were members of the very first performance. There were so few of us that we each had three parts: members of the dance group, members of the crowd on stage in Norwegian costumes and members of the ballroom scene."

Marion and Goodie Boswell  
Deerfield Beach, Florida

"Sorry I can't be there; I have a wedding to sing for. I want to wish you all the very best of luck on your final performance. I wish I could be there. I miss you all very much. Some news: Brian Stoll and I are engaged. Some of you may know him.

Song was honestly one of the more memorable events of my life. Playing Nina gave me confidence and experience to try new things. I'll never forget my 'fall' into stardom. Recall, my opening entrance during the 2nd performance when I 'fell' into Rick's arms, literally!"

Renee Hollfelder  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

"I look back on three memorable summers of wonderful times with everyone in the productions. Every time I hear a Grieg song, I'm right back on the stage."

Art Becknell  
Madison, Wisconsin

"Sometimes it was hard, aggravating work. But I enjoyed doing backstage. Good thing I was younger then. Now it's all I can do going from day to day."

Gladys Board  
Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin

"A lot of changes in 25 years. Dale and I enjoyed selling tickets with Otto and Irene Gilbertson first at Tryol Basin. We always had such a good time; and then when we got rained out and had to be in the school gym--was it hot! At the Cave of the Mounds grounds, too, was so pleasant. Now Otto and Dale are gone, but the Song goes on. Good luck!"

Rubelle Opsal  
Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin



"Thank you for your letter concerning the 25th reunion. I regret that I will not be able to attend what sounds like a wonderful event, however, my thoughts will be with you all.

In July of 1987, I was married to Helen Krogman (of Bloomington, WI). We lived and worked in Madison until September 1990 when we relocated to Penfield, New York so that I could attend the Eastman School of Music. I will receive a Masters of Music degree in vocal performance/literature and a Performer's Certificate in May of 1992. Thus far, I have had several wonderful musical experiences including leading roles in Opera, solo concert work and ensembles. I hope to see the realization of a dream and I'd like to say that the Song of Norway provided another step towards that end.

Helen is teaching music in Avon, a small town outside of Rochester. She enjoys her work and is happy to be here in Rochester, a city not unlike Madison, however, there is no place like Madison, Spring Green, Mt. Horeb and certainly not like Cave of the Mounds.

Please say hello to everyone for us. Should there be any sort of program or book with updated information on Song of Norway cast members, I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to purchase one. We extend our warmest regards and wish you the best of luck! on the upcoming reunion and performances.

Dan and Helen Ihasz  
Penfield, New York

"Being a part of the Song was without a doubt the greatest fun we had in those years. Since being transferred to Texas (by way of 7 years in Louisiana) we have been active in the Norwegian Society of Texas. You are all saying 'Norwegians in Texas'?? You bet, 70,000 strong--alive and well! Pete and I dance with the Metroplex dance group called Keikarringen. We have about 35 dancers plus groups in Amarillo and El Paso. We are not with you at this timely celebration because we are dancing at the Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio. We perform approximately 30-40 times a year. Two years ago we journeyed to Iowa for a centennial and three years ago to Oslo, Norway. We have designed our own authentic Texas bunad--ok'd by King Olaf! We have learned to sing many more Norwegian songs and a few American songs translated into Norwegian. Un-Norwegians love to sing "Ro, ro, ro din bat."

Pete is working as a consultant in Louisiana--a 2 year project (started 5 years ago--things do go slower in the South!)--hopefully coming to a close. He is in 'count down' towards retirement. We're ready to polish the 5th wheeler and head out! Lois keeps busy with house, yard, church, Norwegian whatever, Mother Stoltz and anything else that comes along. The 3 daughters are scattered hither & yon ... Gail in Atlanta, Georgia, computer program analyst, husband, Bob, Special Ed teacher; Jean in Berlin, Germany, waiting for Uncle Sam to send them back to U.S., husband, Bill, is an Army helicopter pilot. Next assignment is as an instructor at West Point. Kay in Chaparral, New Mexico, homemaker and substitute teacher, husband, Mike, self-employed sales. 3 children, Katy 12½; Ben, 10; David, 7.

We danced at the National Youth Gathering in Dallas several weeks ago and were pleasantly greeted by some Wisconsin Norwegians. They were very appreciative and we appreciated the young peoples' attendance, attitudes and attention. Keep that Norwegian heritage going!"

Pete and Lois Becker  
Arlington, Texas



"We're continuing to perform in the area. We just had our second child (May 31), a son, Jacob. You may remember Song, 1983--I was pregnant (5 months) with Diana. She still uses the afghan June Edseth made for her. We miss our friends at Song of Norway. Love to you all.

After performing Edvard & Nina for so many years with so many good friends--it seemed we really were good friends reuniting every summer--working out our dreams and our trials in a beautiful corner of God's world. It was a very special time in our lives. Thank you for sharing yourselves with us."

Greg and Peggy Walters  
Madison, Wisconsin

"How wonderful that you are having a reunion, and how we wish we could be there. If only we had known sooner, I have a performance engagement in West Texas that weekend, but certainly would not have accepted it if we had known about the reunion. As part of the original cast and original music director, Lou and I have a special interest in the on-going success of the Song of Norway.

The Song held a MOST special place in our lives at its inception--for many reasons. Lou and I had our noses to the grindstones, so to speak. With both of us working on our PhDs, there was little time for joy, except through our family, church and the Song. When we were contacted to play major parts in the first year, and the next successive two years, we were flooded with joy, a joy which spread not only to the personnel involved with the productions, but a joy which included practically the entire town of Mt. Horeb. We started eating there, shopping there, visiting in homes of dear friends, picnicing. To say that the Song helped us through some very heavy times is an understatement. Our children were young; the Song played an important part in their lives, also. Our daughter, Gayla, even played the harp one summer along with the organ. This was her first harp job. I think she was paid \$20 for the entire summer (ha!), but it was momentous to her. We still have lifelong friends in Mt. Horeb, and will never forget the place the Countess and the Music Director of the Song played in the fulfillment of just who Lou and Mozelle are today.

By the way, we are still performing, singing, directing, etc. Lou has three bands in Louisville, and I am Director of Opera at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Lou sings with the Kentucky Opera Company, and I tour the U.S., as my teaching/directing schedule allows, to do WOMEN OF THE BIBLE one-woman shows. Let me now if any of the churches in Mt. Horeb ever have a celebration of any kind. Maybe we can work together once again.

Gayla lives in Louisville, has one son, and is Director of Annual Giving at Southern Seminary. She does many harp engagements, and is soloist in a Presbyterian church. Clark is an Associate Episcopalian priest, has a son and a daughter, and lives in Ft. Collins, Colorado. We have been in Louisville for seven years, but still own our cabin at Lake Camelot in Wisconsin. We spend as much time as our busy schedules allow there in the North woods.

Let us hear from you have the reunion. And good luck!

Lou and Mozelle Sherman  
Louisville, Kentucky

"Sorry I can't make it. Just finished playing Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady" here in New York City.

Cindy Marty  
Jackson Heights, New York



I'm not exactly sure to whom I should address this, especially in light of the twenty-five years (!) which have passed since I first set foot on the "Song of Norway" stage that very first season--anybody left from those early years?

So, dear Reunion Committee. I'd just started singing around the time "Song of Norway/Mt. Horeb" was in the planning stages, and I vividly remember an envoy of people, my Father's cousin Olean Cuneen included, coming backstage after a performance of "Die Fledermaus" (Madison Civic Opera), asking me to be the first Rikard Nordrak. Those were thrilling times, but my onstage experience was indeed limited--how well I remember Nancy Stern's patient help--but eventually I was able to walk across a stage without falling over my own feet! My two seasons as Rikard were a kind of springboard, propelling me toward an as yet unknown but hopeful career on the stage, and as I look back on these (oh my god!) twenty-five years, I have to say that I'm thrilled that I persevered. So here I am, sitting at my Smith-Corona, on the 18th floor of my very nice air-conditioned apartment, reflecting on the the hundreds and hundreds of performances with which I've been involved since my move to New York City, and at the same time re-living those heady but uncertain days in 1967(?).

But before this gets to be too long, or too boring, let me just say that I'm currently singing with the New York City Opera, as a chorister, and from time to time a role or two comes my way. I've also been singing with The Metropolitan Opera for a few seasons--was in their new "Ring" Cycle, and this past seasons's new production of "Parsifal," which I'll be repeating in the spring of '92. I've also recently started painting (water colors), and have done a few colored pencil drawings as well. The enclosed Canon copy is a drawing I did of Olean Cuneen (wonderful lady!) from a photograph which I took during our last visit--the copy isn't very accurate, but at least you'll get an impression of one of my first efforts. I wonder if either "Little Norway, or perhaps "Song of Norway" would enjoy displaying the original? Is there any sort of permanent spot for this sort of thing? I would be happy to have it matted and framed, as thanks for her wonderful contribution to "Song of Norway," and as loving memory of a kind and beautiful lady.

Much success to "Song of Norway"! I hope that the note indicating "final performances" doesn't mean the door are closing forever. Please, say it isn't so! I'd love to be there for the reunion, but opera calls.

Best wishes always,

Ronald Forsmo  
400 W. 43rd St. Apt. 18-J  
New York, NY 10036

Ron Forsmo