



OLE OLSSON'S OLDTIME ORKESTRA

People keep asking, who is Ole Olsson, anyway? Ole Olsson, of Snoose Boulevard fame, is the supposed leader of this group, but he has yet to turn up at any gigs, and the band has been playing together for years. Folklore has it that he once owed someone a musical favor, so he was forced to scour the entire state of Minnesota looking for musicians to make up a band. In the end, he managed to put together this all-star cast. Olsson was quoted by Lutfisk Today to say: "Ya, dey sure can play dose old time dance tunes, and dey work real cheap too." Olsson was particularly pleased that half the band is composed of females. "Der is a lot less snoose chewing on stage," he noted. "I yust hate it when dey dribble tobacco yuice on my microphones!" Nothing has been heard from Ole since, but the band carries on, wondering if one day he may appear.....

Ole Olsson's Oldtime Orkestra (usually referred to as O.O.O.O.) is a fun loving group of musicians who first met at the Good Templar Hall in Minneapolis, Minnesota playing for Scandinavian dances in times gone by. Nowadays, they still play some pretty darn good Scandinavian music for oldtime dancing and/or just plain enjoying. They play fiddles, accordions, pump organ and guitar, and sing some funny Scandinavian vaudeville songs that may occasionally make Lutheran ladies smile. They play for festivals and lutfisk feeds all around Minnesota and even make it out of the state once in awhile in their old yalopy to perform in far flung places. They have traveled from New York City to Thousand Oaks, California; from Minot, N.D. to Swedesburg, Ia., all in their quest to spread the joy of Scandinavian folk music and perhaps find the perfectly formed piece of lefse.

Art Bjornjeld lives in Brooklyn Park and is a veteran performer, playing banjo, fiddle, accordion and guitar. He grew up in a musical family and is a talented musician. He has been known to sing "All Pooped Out" in the shower. Art also performs as a solo; with the well known trio, Minnesota Scandinavian Ensemble and plays for the Swedish and Norwegian folk dance groups in the Twin Cities.

Char Bostrom lives in St. Paul and is also a veteran performer. Char's favorite style of music is traditional Swedish fiddling, but she puts up with the Norwegian antics of her bandmates. Besides performing in Ole Olsson's, she plays solo fiddle for polska dance lessons and dance camps all around the country. Char also is the official musician for the Twin Cities Swedish Folk Dancers.

Mary Abendroth lives south of Deerwood, Mn and has been performing music for most of her life, starting with choirs in high school, going through travels around the world - Peace Corps in Paraguay, S.A., then with COMEX, a singing/performing group similar to Up with People, to performing as a duo with her husband Paul Wilson all over the midwest. Mary sings and plays pump organ & guitar.

Paul Wilson has been playing traditional Scandinavian music on fiddle, 2 row button accordion, guitar for about 30 years. Paul's Swedish grandfather and Norwegian great-grandfather were both folk fiddlers, so he is carrying on a family tradition. Paul's musical interests have led him to studying musical traditions from all the Scandinavian countries. He is founder of Nisswa-stämman Scandinavian Festival.

Bruce Bostrom is a veteran performer and raconteur with a fantastic necktie collection. Bruce is one of the best munnharpe players in Minnesota and claims to have an inside track on the whereabouts of Ole Olsson himself!

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