

Boulder Scandinavian Dancers

\$1000 Grant from the Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund - April 2017

Date: September 16, 2017
To: The Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund Committee
RE: Report for grant to Boulder Scandinavian Dancers:
\$1000 approved March 28, 2017

Dear Maggie, Melba, and Ingvar,

We fulfilled our grant request on July 18, 2017, when we met with Sharon Gillespie and gifted the Hans Nielsen hardingfele to her. Instead of loaning the fiddle to her, which was our initial concept, we just gave the fiddle to her and she is now the sole owner of the fiddle. We feel Sharon is a worthy steward of the instrument and will preserve it and always use it in a way consistent with our original intentions.



This is the culmination of an idea that began on January 29, 2017, at the annual meeting of the Boulder Scandinavian Dancers. It was suggested that we should investigate purchasing a hardingfele to loan to the Boulder Spelesmannslag (Sharon) since we knew they no longer had access to one. This would provide the young fiddlers with an instrument to learn and practice on, and continue our access to live Norwegian music for our dance performances and social dancing.

One of our members knew of a fiddle maker in Minnesota and volunteered to visit him and make inquiries. He returned with a fiddle made by Hans Nielsen for our examination. The fiddle was taken to several hardingfele players for evaluation. This included Loretta Kelley, a well-known American hardingfele player, and a fine local fiddler, Kristen Demaree. Loretta said that the fiddle was a good instrument, needing only new strings, and a good buy at \$1000. Kristen and local fiddlers were impressed by its sound and big voice, and noted that it held its tuning well.

The fiddle has also been played by Arne Anderal, the Norwegian fiddler who came to our 2017 Spring Music and Dance Weekend, and he judged it to be an adequate instrument. Other research also indicated that \$1000 was a reasonable price.

It was agreed that this would be a good instrument to buy and the purchase was unanimously approved by BSD. It was suggested that this might be a good project to propose to the Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund and a grant proposal was begun. Hans Nielsen wanted immediate payment and a check was sent to him with the hope that we would receive a Wilson Legacy Fund grant. Otherwise, we would have had to pay for the instrument from group savings. We also began to investigate getting new strings, obtaining an HFAA (Hardanger Fiddle Association of America) model loan agreement and discussing insurance options. In the end, we decided that a loan agreement and insurance were too cumbersome and difficult to deal with, especially on a continuing, long-term basis, and we again unanimously agreed to donate the fiddle to Sharon.



Sharon was thrilled and very appreciative to receive the hardingfele. Along with the fiddle, she received a history of BSD's efforts to procure the instrument and a deed of ownership so that it was clear that she is the sole owner of the fiddle.

Sharon already knew who would be playing the instrument (two students) and at the meeting, we had an informative and interesting discussion about how she protects her "loaner instruments," about teaching young students, the extended camaraderie of her students, and their relationship with BSD.



It was wonderful to bring this major and locally impactful project to completion.