

## Boulder Spelemannslag - Specialized Instruction

*\$600 Grant from the Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund - March 2019*

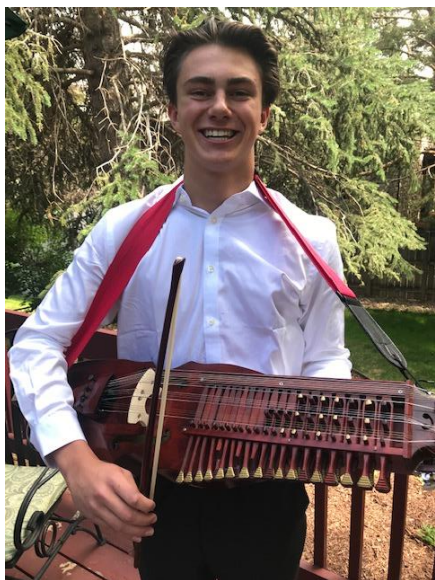
The Boulder Spelemannslag is an ensemble of young musicians who play music for Scandinavian dancing, under the direction of Sharon Gillespie. The group has been in existence for more than 30 years and has performed at the Midsummer's Festival in Lindsborg, Kansas, as well as many venues in Colorado.

In 2018, the group received a grant from the Alex Wilson Legacy Fund for matching funds to purchase a nyckelharpa, a traditional Swedish keyed fiddle in which keys, rather than fingers, depress the strings to change the pitch.

At the same time, Boulder Scandinavian Dancers helped the group acquire a second new nyckelharpa. These two instruments were not the group's first nyckelharpas, but they were sorely needed, as the group had more experienced nyckelharpa players than instruments.



*Boulder Spelemannslag, June 2019*



*Spelemannslag member Bennett Ford playing nyckelharpa*

Now, in March 2019, the group has received a small follow-on grant to provide scholarship funds for specialized instruction on nyckelharpa. Several students are currently working on mastering the two new instruments acquired in 2019.

Each of two students was able to have five lessons this summer, and we hope that when [Loretta Kelley](#), a nationally known specialist in Scandinavian music, visits Boulder she will be able to conduct a master class for them.

Funds were also provided for a backup set of strings for each instrument.