

## Boulder Spelemannslag

### Spelemannslag Fundraising Dance and Assistance with Costumes and Camp

\$1,500 Grant from the Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund - \$1000 in 2013 and \$500 in 2014

On February 23, 2013, the Boulder Spelemannslag presented a special fundraising event at the Pearl Street Studio to raise funds for the group.

The day included a dance workshop with Roo Lester, a family dance with live music by the Spelemannslag, a dance party with current and returning Spelemannslag members, and a silent auction.



The Boulder Spelemannslag and guest dancers at Chataouqua, May 2010; Director Sharon Gillespie, right

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 in Lindsborg, Kansas, as well as several venues in Colorado.



Sharon Gillespie with two young students

Children can join the group around 4th or 5th grade and "graduate" at the end of high school, but remain members for life, many of them gathering annually to play together after graduation.

The group rehearses weekly, learning the tunes by year. As of February 2013 there were 17 members playing numerous instruments—guitar, violin, accordion, bass, nyckelharpa (keyed fiddle, a Swedish folk instrument), and Hardingfele (an 8-string Norwegian fiddle).

The February 13, 2013, event was a big success, filling the Pearl Street Studio to capacity (50+ people) both for the afternoon workshop and the evening dance. Generous donations from the event paid for three Norwegian costumes (see next page) and helped two members of the group attend the weeklong Scandia Music and Dance Camp at Mendocino.

Some comments:

- "These kids are so good, I like to dance to their music."
- "We should have dance parties like this more often!"

**SPELEMANNSLAG FUNDRAISING DANCE**

Featuring ROO LESTER, Nationally Renown Dance Teacher

**Saturday, February 23, 2013**  
2:30 – 10:00 p.m.  
Pearl Street Studio, 2126 Pearl St. Boulder

**Workshop: 2:30 – 5:00**  
A Journey in Puls Rhythms with Roo Lester and Ingvor Sodal  
Norwegian dances from the areas of  
Trøndelag, Raros and Finnslagen  
(Some prior experience in basic Scandinavian dancing  
helpful for this workshop.)  
\$10

**Family Dances: 6:30 – 7:15**  
Easy dances with Spelemannslag  
Bring your family and friends  
\$5 for adults; children free

**Dance Party: 7:30 – 10:00**  
Music by young and old Spelemannslag members  
**Silent Auction**  
\$10 for adults; children and Spelemannslag parents free

**To donate special auction items, please contact:**  
soudal@pearlsl.com or call  
303-443-7538

**All proceeds from this event will go to the Spelemannslag**  
Donations Appreciated

Supported by the Alex (Tink) Wilson Legacy Fund

Poster for the event: the fiddler troll was one of several submissions from group members in a contest for publicity material

The Spelemannslag used donations from the event to make four Norwegian costumes or “bunads,” two of which are shown here.

- The yellow and blue fabric came from Trondheim, Norway, where it had been purchased 40 years ago by former Boulder folk dancers Felix and Holly, who now live in Ridgway, Colorado. They donated the fabric to the Spelemannslag.
- The red and blue fabric had been purchased by Maggie Butler in Norway; she donated it to the Spelemannslag.
- A third set of fabric was purchased by Jofrid Sodal in Norway and was donated to the group.

Donated funds were used to purchase vest and blouse fabric as well as fabric for the fourth bunad, and to pay a seamstress in Boulder to make the costumes.

Donations were also used to assist the two senior girls shown at right in getting scholarships to the 2013 Mendocino Scandia Camp.



Senior Spelemannslag members Leah Iatridis and Genna Clow



The Spelemannslag plays for a Boulder dance party (above and right)

