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Friends of Scandinavian Studies
Department of German and Scandinavian
1250 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1250

Friends of Scandinavian Studies Newsletter

Helena Kopchick

A Passion for Scandinavian Music

Helena Kopchick first became interested in Scandinavian Studies while studying with Per Hannevold, principal bassoonist of the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, at the Aspen Music Festival & School. She subsequently presented a paper at the International Grieg Society's biannual conference in Bergen in 2007. Titled "Encountering the Supernatural Other in Three Musical Settings of Henrik Ibsen's *Spillemaend*, her conference paper was a comparative study of art song settings by Grieg, Frederick Delius and Alban Berg. It was published in the fall of 2007 in the journal *Studia Musicologica Norvegica*.

While Helena gained a better appreciation for Grieg's music from attending the conference, not until she took a trip down the Hardanger Fjord did something "click" for her. Surrounded by mountains and waterfalls, she found a powerful new meaning in Grieg's music. This experience made her want to learn more about the nineteenth-century Scandinavian cultural landscape.

Helena therefore became involved in Scandinavian Studies at the University of Oregon. She enrolled in

Professor Michael Stern's "Masks and the Ecstatic Experience" class in the fall of 2007. Last summer she attended Sommerkurs i Bergen, a four-week intensive course in Norwegian language and culture at the University of Bergen. A Friends of Scandinavian Studies scholarship funded the cost of her travel to Norway for this program, which "was incredibly helpful in improving my Norwegian; I can already read sources related to my research with greater fluency." This year she is taking "Scandinavian Languages for Reading Knowledge" and "German for Reading Knowledge" to improve her mastery of materials in Swedish, Danish and German.

Helena Kopchick is a bassoonist with the Oregon Mozart Players as well as a graduate student in musicology and bassoon performance at the University of Oregon. Her M.A. thesis will be a hermeneutic reading of Grieg's String Quartet in G minor as a programmatic retelling of Henrik Ibsen's poem *Spillemaend*. Portions of this work will be presented at Grieg conferences in Florida and in Berlin. She intends to write her PhD dissertation in musicology on the significance of *fossegrimen*, *nokken* and other folkloric water spirits in nineteenth-century Scandinavian art song and stage works.



Helena Kopchick

Scandinavian Events

**Please Mark Your
Calendars!**

Whitey Lueck's Swedish Film Series

Fridays * 7 pm
 177 Lawrence * UO campus
 See newsletter insert

Scandinavian Classical Music Concert featuring

bassoonist Helena Kopchick
violinist Holland Phillips
 Friday, April 3 * 7:30 pm
 Central Lutheran Church
 1857 Potter St * Eugene



*Friends' President,
Kathie Lindlan*

*Friends of
Scandinavian Studies*

*Department of
German and Scandinavian*

202 Friendly Hall
1250 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1250
(541) 346-4051
<http://scandinavian.uoregon.edu/>

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Layout: Evan Kornfeldt

Contributors: Kathie Lindlan, Ellen Rees,
Helena Kopchick, Evan Kornfeldt

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This publication will be made available
in accessible formats upon request.

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

With the current problems in the U.S. economy, we are shifting our focus from fundraising back to cultural events, much to our relief. Whitey Lueck has planned another delightful Swedish film series at 7 pm on Friday evenings during winter term. Please join him and other Friends for some or all of these films in 177 Lawrence Hall.

The Friends are organizing a Scandinavian classical music concert that will happen April 3rd. Two excellent musicians, who play in the Oregon Mozart Players and the Eugene Symphony and are pursuing doctoral degrees in music, have volunteered to perform. Holland Phillips (featured in the spring 2008 newsletter) and Helena Kopchick (on page 1) specialize in the music of Danish composer Carl Nielsen and Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg, respectively.

The German & Scandinavian Department is conducting a search for a visiting professor of Scandinavian. This person will be Professor Ellen Rees' replacement during her leave of absence to pursue research in Oslo. The Scandinavian program, and the Friends, will miss Ellen considerably. She has made significant contributions to Scandinavian scholarship and education during her UO tenure.

Gott Nytt År!
Kathie Lindlan

Upcoming Classes

Winter 2009

- SCAN 259 The Sagas and Hybrid Culture (M. Stern)
- SCAN 351 Romanticism and Modern Breakthrough (M. Stern)

Spring 2009

- DANE 199 Intro to Danish Language and Culture (C. Mortensen)
- SCAN 315 Cinematic Traditions in Scandinavia: "Assimilation and its Discontents" (M. Stern)

***Our New Finnish
Instructor,
Elina Hietaranta***



Elina Hietaranta

I come from Tampere, a town in Southern Finland. I hold a Master of Arts degree from the University of Tampere, and have studied extensively within the fields of English Philology, Comparative Literature, and Education. An exchange program between the U of O and the University of Tampere brought me here, and I am now teaching the course Finnish 101. I am also enrolled in the Comparative Literature program in order to start doing research for a doctoral project. In Finland, I have worked at the University of Tampere, and after returning to Finland, I hope to find work where I can put my expertise in education, languages and literature into use. I have enjoyed my stay in Eugene very much, and I particularly enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and the rich cultural life of this town, as well as the Pacific Northwest area in general.

***Ellen Rees Receives
Major Norwegian
Research Fellowship***

Scandinavian Professor Ellen Rees has accepted a prestigious research fellowship in the Department of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies at the University of Oslo. A project on "Hyttboker: A Literary and Cultural History of Norwegian Cabins, 1814-2005," and the prospect of living in Norway with her Norwegian husband and their young son, enticed her. During Ellen's extended leave of absence from the University of Oregon, a visiting professor will assume her UO teaching responsibilities.

Despite the significant role of cabins in Norwegian agricultural life, the symbolism of the cabin and its function in Norwegian literature has never been the focus of any major research project. While examining the writings of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Norwegian authors, Ellen

will explore "how the cabin -- a locus that is ubiquitous both in the landscape and as represented in literary texts -- functions as a space where national identity is enacted and challenged, where issues of class identity are negotiated, and where ideological stances in relation to growing wealth and leisure are both displayed and interrogated." Her studies on the cabin will consider the relationships among literature, architecture, nationalist ideology, and tourism.



Ellen Rees

Friends' Reminders

The Friends' website at
<http://scandinavian.uoregon.edu/>
publishes a calendar and a newsletter archive

To receive occasional calendar updates
via email,
please email
scan@uoregon.edu