



Fiddle for dancers at the festival in Højby, 1999.

Critics have said that the group invites the listener to music that is easy to listen to, technically skilful and dance worthy. And it is unusual for a group this large to play with such uniformity and togetherness!



Playing at a grange during Musik vid Siljan festival.

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Translation by Pamela Carlsson, 18 April 2001



The Fiddlers League of Falun

Falu Spelmannslag

The Fiddlers League of Falun plays folk music with emphasis on dance music. A grange with a newly polished dance floor full of sweaty and ecstatic dancers is the Falu gang's true home. But this group even plays concerts. And during the summer music can be heard from barns and through bush the countless fiddle strains.

The Fiddlers League of Falun has approximately 50 active members. Most play fiddle but also have accordion, base, the Swedish national instrument "key harp" and a trumpet!

The groups has existed over 15 years and with its enthusiasm and dance rhythms has built up a good reputation among folk dancers in Sweden and Denmark. It's difficult to sit still while listening to the The Fiddlers League of Falun. This music is marked by a musical enthusiasm that grows with each new encounter with dancers.

With its roots in the 70s folk music wave that started with an evening course in fiddle tunes, the group has now become a musical focal point for both young and "old" fiddlers in Falun.

FALUN is the provincial capital in Dalarna, the region that has the richest and strongest folk music tradition in Sweden. During the 1800 and 1900s Dalarna had a series of legendary folk musicians whose tunes today make up the greater part of The Fiddlers League of Falun repertoire. But the group has even incorporated newly written tunes and music from other parts of Sweden and our neighbour in Norway.

KARIN BJÖRLING is The Fiddlers League of Falun musical director. She has educated herself in folk music tradition at Folk Music College in Malung under the direction of Kalle Almlöf and Agneta Stolpe.

THE FIDDLERS LEAGUE OF FALUN performs every year during Music by Siljan and the Falun Folk Music Festival, the two largest folk music festivals in Sweden performing at a variety of gigs from small granges to the big folk music festival in Bingsjö, that attracts up to 10,000 visitors to this little



The Fiddlers League of Falun at the festival in Højby, Denmark, september 1999. Photo: Thomas Fahlander

village far out in the forests north of Falun. The Bingsjö folk music festival sets the scene to create a magical evening and night in the beginning of July when it never really gets dark and the music never really silences.

The Fiddlers League of Falun has during the years performed in many places in Sweden and abroad. In 1994 the group was invited to a festival in Højby, Denmark to hold workshops, fiddle for dancers and participate in a church concert.

DENMARK AND SCOTLAND were destinations for the group in September 1999. From the festival in Højby the trip continued by ferry over the North

Sea to Scotland with a "perilous" gig in the ship's night club. Once there at their destination the group gave several concerts and held workshops in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Inverness.

IN 1991 the group released their first recording, a cassette concisely named *Falu Spelmanslag*, The Fiddlers League of Falun.

In 1997 the group came out with another recording, a CD, *I Stöten* (tone/sound AWCD-18). It was very well received by both critics and public. The first release of 1,000 CDs sold instantly. Even the second release sold out quickly and now into the third!