

The Contributions of Norwegian Immigrants to the Musical Life of the United States

A Talk by *Bradley Ellingboe* at the Fellesraad Centennial Celebration

Brooklyn Center, Minnesota

May 6, 2016

HANDOUT

I. CLASSICAL MUSIC

1. Instrumental music

A. Ole Bull (1810-1880), violin virtuoso, “discoverer” of Edvard Grieg and, by his own admission, “A Norse Nordman from Norway.” Founder of the “New Norway Colony” in Pennsylvania (commonly called the “Ole Bull Colony”).

B. Storm Bull (1913-2007), pianist and music educator, great-grandnephew of Ole Bull. Both his grandfathers were also first cousins to Edvard Grieg.

C. Adolph “Bud” Herseth (1921-2013), principal trumpet of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra from 1948 - 2001 (53 years!). During his tenure the Chicago Symphony was generally regarded as having the finest brass section of all the great orchestras of the world.

D. Camilla Wicks (b. 1928), one of the first female solo violinists to have a major international career, including performances with the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

2. Choral Music

A. The Christiansen Legacy

1. F. Melius Christiansen (1871-1955), founder of the St. Olaf Choir tradition, and composer of sacred choral music. His legacy was perpetuated by his sons:

2. Olaf C. Christiansen (1901-1984) who led the St. Olaf Choir upon his father’s retirement in 1941 until his own retirement in 1968, and

3. Paul J. Christiansen (1914-1997) who led the Concordia Choir (Moorhead, Minn.) from 1937-1986.

B. Leland Sateren (1913-2007), led the Augsburg College Choir from 1950-1979.

C. Carolyn Jennings (b. 1936), Professor Emerita from St. Olaf College, composer and arranger of more than 100 choral anthems.

D. Marty Haugen (b. 1950), graduate of Luther College, author of many hymns and sacred songs used by Christians of all denominations.

3. **Opera**

A. Ardis Krainik (1929-1997), American mezzo soprano (half Norwegian, on her mother's side) and, for 15 years, Director of the Chicago Lyric Opera.

B. Suzan Hanson (b. 1958), American soprano, especially active in new music.

II. **COMMERCIAL MUSIC**

1. **Pop Music**

A. Andrew Sisters (LaVerne 1911-1967; Maxine 1916-1995; Patti 1918-2013). Greek on father's side (nee "Andreas") but mother was Norwegian.

B. Peggy Lee (1920-2002)

C. Skitch Henderson (1918-2005)

D. Joni Mitchell (b. Roberta Joan Anderson in 1943). Her father was Norwegian and possibly had some Sami blood.

E. Axel Stordahl (1913-1963)

2. **Rock**

A. David Ellefson (b. 1964). Bassist and founding member of heavy metal band Megadeath.

B. Iggy Pop (b. James Osterberg, Jr. in 1947). Singer, songwriter, musician, actor and founder of The Stooges. Known for his outrageous stage antics.

C. Grace Slick (b. Grace Wing in 1939). Her father was of Norwegian and Swedish descent. Lead singer for Jefferson Airplane (later Jefferson Starship).

D. Matt Sorum (b. 1960). Lead drummer for "Guns and Roses."

3. **Country**

A. Lynn Anderson (1947-2015). Country Western superstar singer and Songwriter. Born in Grand Forks, ND, her great-grandfather hailed from Aremark, Norway.

B. Carl Frederick Tandberg (1910-1988). Bassist with Glen Campbell.

4. **Humor/Novelty**

A. Stan Boreson (b. 1925)

B. Harry Stewart (1908-1956)