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# SCOTT AND JOHANNA HONGELL-DARSEE

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## Medieval and Traditional Ballads

People have sung stories since times immemorial as a way to memorize and record history, myths and tales. The songs we today refer to as medieval and traditional ballads have their roots among Nordic epic sagas, French romantic lays, Celtic lore and World mythology. They all share themes that have traveled cultures, continents and centuries. They have metamorphosed and melted into various musical traditions, weaving a world of fantasy and mystery.

**Scott and Johanna** are a duo who perform early traditional Scandinavian/Celtic ballads and tales.

Their wanderings have led them from Finland and Iowa respectively - through Europe, Scandinavia, India, and the U.S. On the way they have picked up tales and songs that they perform together with the stories behind them, in particular exploring the links between Scandinavian, Celtic, North American and other story singing traditions.

Their performances have been described as magical, inspiring, haunting, mesmerizing ...

*"... the Hongell-Darsees summon ancient characters from the depths of our collective unconscious and bid you take leave of the modern world and join your ancestors, huddled together in a hut around a fire as the storyteller makes the hair on your arms stand straight up." (Mel Minter, Musically Speaking, Albuquerque, NM)*

Their recordings include *The Island Furthest Away* 2008, *The Wandering Ballad* 2014, *The Mountain King* 2016, *Saved By His Lady* 2019 and have been nominated for 3 New Mexico Music Awards. They have had multiple songs on The Top 40 World Music Charts by Ethnocloud and their songs can also be found on several Celtic music compilations.

After relocating to New Mexico from Scandinavia in 2001, Scott and Johanna have performed all over the U.S. at festivals, theatres, arts councils, universities, schools, libraries, and live broadcasts including:

- *Provincetown Playhouse and Scandinavia House, NYC*
- *Outpost Performance Space with AMP Concerts, Albuquerque, NM*
- *International Folk Art Market, Santa Fe, NM*
- *Renaissance Faires: Medieval Fair of Norman, OK, NM Celtic Renaissance Faire, Albuquerque Renaissance Faire, NM, Midsummers Fairytale Celtic Ren Fair, CA,*
- *Folk/Celtic Festivals: Traditional Music Society, Los Angeles, CA; and Albuquerque, NM, Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival, NM*
- *Scandinavian Festivals: Estes Park, CO; Atlanta, GA; Los Angeles, CA; Thousand Oaks, CA; and Lindsborg, KS*
- *Storytelling Festivals: Los Angeles, CA; Four Corners, NM; Taos, NM; and Albuquerque, NM*
- *Universities: NYU; UNM, ENMU, San Juan College and College of Santa Fe, NM; UA; Coe College, IA*
- *NPR Affiliates, KUNM, KSFR, WFHB*
- *TV 2KASA Morning Show*
- *New Mexico Humanities Council – Inducted as scholars in 2005*

**Johanna** (vocals, woodwinds, arrangements) was born in Finland. Apart from music she has a background in theater and dance. She studied theater in France and Bharata Natyam dance in India. She has worked as a performing artist for over 40 years in Scandinavia, Europe, India and USA and led the dance and theater *company Teater Bava* in Sweden for 10 years.

**Scott** (stringed instruments, arrangements, composer) was born in USA. Since 2000 Scott has performed music throughout the US from New York to California. Before relocating to New Mexico, he spent 16 years in Europe, where parallel to his artistic work he worked with ballet companies such as Dance Theatre of Harlem, London Festival Ballet, English National Ballet, The Royal Danish Ballet and Hamburg Ballet.

Link to website: <http://www.hongelldarsee.com/>

Link to videos: <http://www.hongelldarsee.com/gallery>

Link to Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Scott-and-Johanna-Hongell-Darsee-186240984740838/>

