



What is a Nyckelharpa?

The nyckelharpa is a traditional Swedish instrument that has been played, in one form or another as it evolved, for more than 600 years. At least four different versions of the nyckelharpa are still played today, an uncommon situation for most folk instruments.

The modern chromatic nyckelharpa has sixteen strings: three melody strings, one drone string, and twelve sympathetic vibration (or resonance) strings. It has about thirty-seven wooden keys arranged to slide under the strings. Each key has a tangent that reaches up and stops (frets) a string to produce a particular note. The player uses a short bow with the right hand, and pushes on the keys with the left. It has a three octave range, and sounds something like a fiddle, only with more resonance. Earlier forms of the nyckelharpa had fewer keys, fewer (or no) sympathetic strings, and fewer melody strings, and often made more use of drone strings.

What is the ANA?

The American Nyckelharpa Association is a non-profit organization for the support and fostering of the Swedish nyckelharpa (sometimes called the Swedish key fiddle). We conduct educational programs and activities to promote knowledge of, and interest in, the nyckelharpa and the traditional music of the nyckelharpa. We endeavor to provide competent instruction in playing the nyckelharpa and the musical tradition associated with it, as well as the dances associated with that tradition.

As of April 2005, we have about 140 members, mostly from North America, but from other countries as well. Our numbers are growing as more and more enthusiasts discover the nyckelharpa and join our ranks every year.

Most of our funding comes from individual memberships. For \$10 per year you get our quarterly newsletter *Nyckel Notes* delivered digitally, (\$15 for snail mail delivery to a US address) and the good feeling deep down inside that comes from knowing you're helping to

support this unique and beautiful instrument. And don't forget that as a member you get a discount on the purchase of the CDs, books and nyckelharpa strings which we offer for sale.

So help support our cause, and become a member!

You are welcome to visit our web site at:

www.nyckelharpa.org

The American Nyckelharpa Association

Membership Application

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Country _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

E-mail (for digital delivery of newsletter & general communication) _____

Do you play the nyckelharpa? _____

For how long? _____

May we publish your name and address on a public roster?

Yes. _____ No. _____

How did you get interested in the nyckelharpa? _____

Mail this form, along with a check for \$10 or \$15 made out to The American Nyckelharpa Association, to:

ANA, PO Box 661, Lahaska PA 18931

Membership includes a subscription to Nyckel Notes, the ANA's quarterly newsletter.