World Music Series, Karin Loberg Code, Harding Fiddle, October 5, 2015

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Karin Loberg Code
Harding Fiddle
Bridal march from Nes [performed but not recorded due to machine error]

Sjåheimen valдресspringar
Lyarlått etter Ola Okshovd
Mehanken valдресspringar
Steinsrudens telespringar
Sølve-Knut halling
Trulseguten halling
Sistelått at Krøsshaugen lèt
Jenta med Garde
Slidreklukkelåtten
Kelley Green Springar
Knute Ivarslåtten
Vossavalsen
Fykeruds farvel til Amerika

No intermission

The *hardingfele*, or *Harding fiddle*, is an indigenous Norwegian folk instrument used primarily to accompany a group of regional dances known as *bygdedans*. This tradition dates back to at least the mid-17th century, and has continued without interruption to the present day. Some of the physical features that distinguish the *hardingfele* from a violin are the shorter neck; deeply indented $f$-holes; a thick, almost flat bridge; ornate decorations; and the presence of six to 10 strings. There are four top strings, and most commonly five sympathetic strings underneath. The latter are
never bowed, but instead vibrate sympathetically when the top strings are played. This, coupled with a playing style that calls for almost continuous drones or double stops, produces a rich, ringing sound which many find reminiscent of the bagpipe. The strings are tuned in over 30 variants, often to produce the appropriate drones for a given piece of music. Another unique feature of hardingfele music, or slåttar, is that it incorporates pitches not found in the 12-note scale used by the piano. For more information on the hardingfele see the website of the Hardanger Fiddle Association of America at hfaa.org. The instruments played on this evening are a 1961 Knut K. Steinkjønndalen and a 1981 Bjarne Øen.

Described as one of America’s “foremost Norwegian Harding fiddlers” in Norway’s premiere folk music journal, Folkemusikk, Karin Loberg Code has lived in Norway three years and has been awarded several grants, including ones from the Norway-America Association, American-Scandinavian Foundation and the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, for intensive study of the hardingfele. While in Norway she played by invitation for several regular folk dance groups in Oslo, performed at national and regional competitions, appeared on Norwegian State Radio and Radio Norway International, and performed for dance courses, concerts and other special events.

As an American fiddler, Karin has been on staff along with Norwegian-born artists at numerous festivals and workshops in this country including Great Lakes Folk Festival, Ten Pound Fiddle, Nordic Fiddles and Feet, Springdans Northwest in Seattle, Scandia Camp Mendocino in California, Folklore Village Farm Workshops, Julian Festival in California and the Hardanger Fiddle Association’s Annual Workshops in Minnesota and Wisconsin. In 2002, she was invited to teach and perform at two events in Norway: American String Teachers’ Association’s International Workshops in Stavanger, and Norwegian Folk Music Week in Ål. Her first CD, Norsk Spring Dance, is widely used in this country for folk dance accompaniment. Her second CD, Harding Tones, includes premiere recordings of a hardingfele quartet.

Karin is a classically trained violist who teaches at Kalamazoo College and West Michigan Homeschool Fine Arts. She freelances with several Michigan orchestras including the Kalamazoo and West Michigan Symphonies.
WORLD MUSIC SERIES 2015–16

Cimarrón
Wednesday, September 23, 2015 • 8 p.m.
Stansbury Theatre, Music-Drama Center

Karin Loberg Code, Harding fiddle
Monday, October 5, 2015 • 8 p.m.
Harper Hall, Music-Drama Center

Hector Del Curto Quintet
Monday, February 1, 2016 • 8 p.m.
Harper Hall, Music-Drama Center

Zafir with Simon Shaheen
Friday, April 1, 2016 • 8 p.m.
Lawrence Memorial Chapel

Gamelan Cahaya Asri Concert
Sunday, May 22, 2016 • 3 p.m.
Lawrence Memorial Chapel