

Culture Blooms in the North

Akureyri is often called the capital of the bright north. There, the summers are mild but the winters are often quite harsh. The sunsets on bright summer nights are without compare and in winter the turquoise northern lights dance across the sky.



Akureyri has a population of 18,000 people in a peaceful, family-friendly environment. The economy is based on fishing, small industry, tourism and services.

It should also be noted that significant value lies in extensive cultural activities in town. Many of the nation's leading poets have resided in Akureyri, and it has numerous museums, and a new and splendid culture center opened in 2010. Musical life flourishes with a symphony orchestra, several choirs, powerful music schools and so on.

This year Akureyri is celebrating its 150th anniversary; the town received municipal rights 1862. This is truly a year of anniversaries and celebrations, and the celebrations peak around the town's birthday on August 29th.

Akureyri Women's Choir now visits Icelandic communities in North America and carries with it a touch of the town's and Iceland's culture. As Mayor of Akureyri, I wish you good fun at the choir's concert and hope you enjoy the show.

With good wishes from the capital of the bright north!

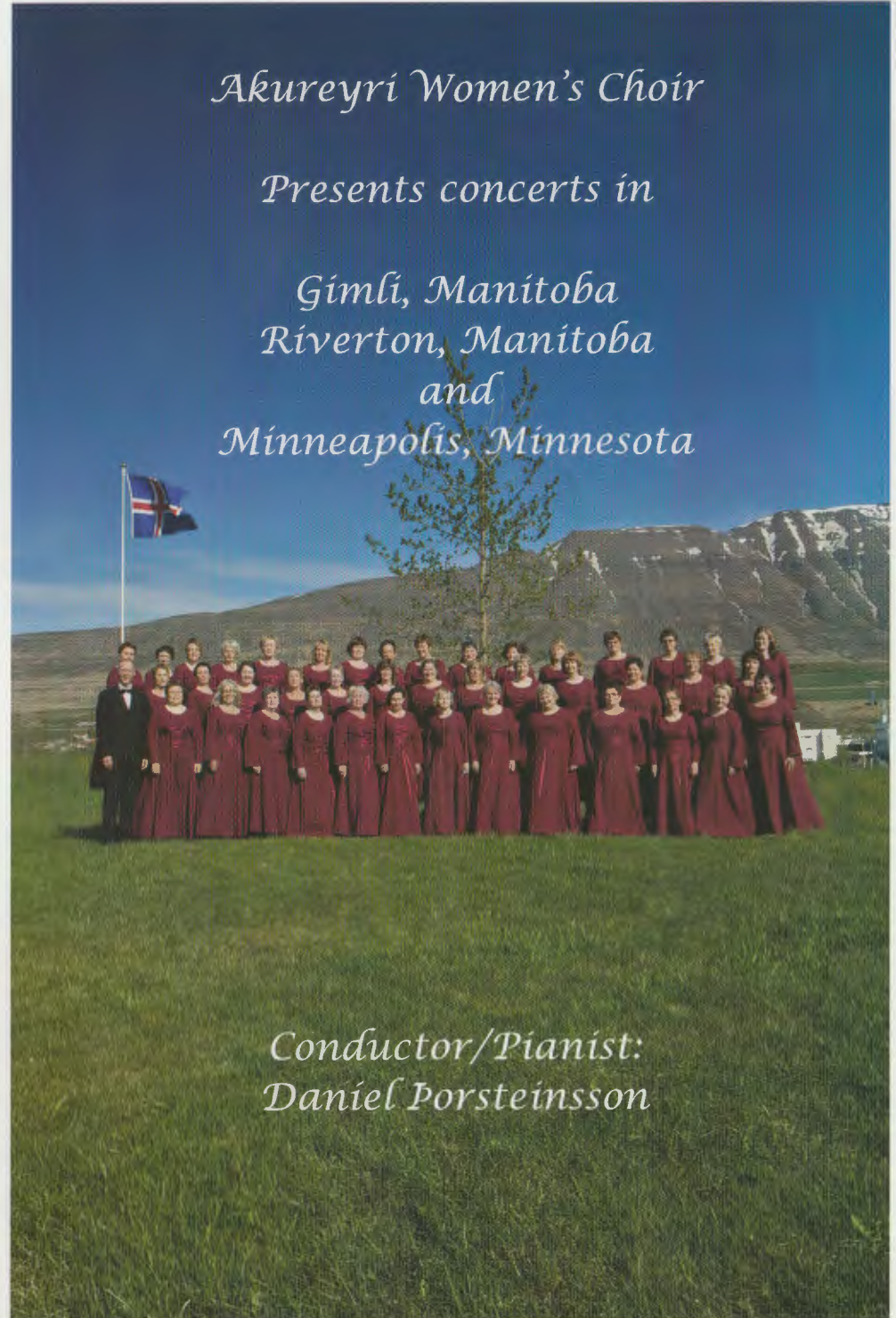
Eiríkur Björn Björgvinsson,
Mayor of Akureyri



Akureyri Women's Choir

Presents concerts in

*Gimli, Manitoba
Riverton, Manitoba
and
Minneapolis, Minnesota*



*Conductor/Pianist:
Daniel Þorsteinsson*

Kvennakór Akureyrar (Akureyri Women's Choir)

In 1997 a group of women, who all loved singing, decided to establish a mixed choir, intending to practice and perform mainly easy-going popular music. Getting male voices into the choir turned out to be difficult, so it was decided that the choir should become a women's choir. In winter 2000-'01, the 16 remaining members performed at a popular café in Akureyri, to present the choir and attract new singers, with the result of over 100 women showing up at rehearsals in the following weeks! In 2001 the choir was officially named Kvennakór Akureyrar or Akureyri Women's Choir. Since then the choir has consisted of 60-80 members, primarily women from Akureyri and the surrounding area. The repertoire now includes Icelandic and foreign folk songs, works of world music, classical choral works, gospel, musical numbers, and choral arrangements of popular Icelandic and foreign songs. Since its foundation, the choir has had the privilege of practicing under leadership of five conductors, each bringing along new experiences and aspects of performing music.

Every year, Kvennakór Akureyrar organizes at least three concerts, the two main events for the choir being the annual spring concert and the annual charity concert, usually seeking cooperation with other local choirs and musicians. A short singing tour within Iceland is usually scheduled at the end of the season each year.

Kvennakór Akureyrar has done two tours abroad: 2005 to Slovenia and 2008 to Estonia. In each country the choir held concerts in three different locations while exploring the countrys' nature and culture. For August 2012 the choir decided it is time to cross the Atlantic and participate at the Icelandic festival in Gimli, as well as singing at concerts in Riverton, Manitoba and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In 2008 Kvennakór Akureyrar recorded its first commercial CD with the Icelandic title "Sólardans á vori." The CD presents the wide variety of the choir's repertoire.

Daníel Þorsteinsson

The pianist Daníel Þorsteinsson has been the choir's conductor since January 2009. He was born in Neskaupstaður, a small town in East Iceland, where he also started his music education. He graduated as a pianist in 1986 and continued his studies at the Sweelinck Conservatorium in Amsterdam, from where he graduated in 1993. As an active Icelandic musician he has been performing as a soloist and chamber musician for years, as well as accompanying solo singers and choirs. Daníel is a member of the Caput ensemble, which mainly performs modern music. With Caput he has performed in various European countries, as well as in North America and Asia. Daníel Þorsteinsson has been arranging and composing music for theaters, choirs and soloists and has recorded various CDs. The town of Akureyri chose him for the "Artist in Residence" grant for the year 2000. Daníel currently teaches at Akureyri music school, but also works as an organist in Eyjafjörður and conducts a local church choir.



Program

Ísland ögrum skorið

Composer: Sigvaldi Kaldalóns.

Poet: Eggert Ólafsson.

Arr.: Jakob Tryggvason.

Lysthúskvæði

Icelandic folksong.

Poet: Eggert Ólafsson.

Arr.: Róbert A. Ottósson.

Jesú mín morgunstjarna

Icelandic folksong (from Hólabók 1619).

Poet: 1st verse unknown, 2nd and 3rd verse Magnús

Runólfsson

A series of folksongs

Arranger: Jón Þórarinsson

Tinda fjalla

Poet: Jónas Hallgrímsson

Stásmey sat í sorgum

Poet: Stefán Ólafsson.

Sólin þaggar

Poet: Jónas Jónasson from Torfmýri

Minni Íslands

Poet: Böðvar Jakobsson.

Composer: Rósalind Vigfússon

Haust á Akureyri

Poet: Örn Snorrason.

Composer: Birgir Helgason.

Arr.: Daníel Þorsteinsson.

Hotaru Koi

Japanese children's song.

Arr.: Ogura

Aria

Composer: J.S. Bach.

Arr.: Malcolm V. Edwards

Norwegian trilogy

Traditional Norwegian folksongs.

Arr.: Margaret King.

God morgen Ola Reppom

Ned i vester soli glader

Poet: Anders Hoven.

Solo: Hólmfríður Þorsteinsdóttir

Ekorn gjekk på volln og slo

Con te partiro

Composers and poets: Fransesco Sartori, Lucio Quarantotto
og Frank Peterson.

Arr.: Mac Huff

O Canada

(Performed in Canada)

Poet: Stanley Weir.

Composer: Calixa Lavallée.

Arr.: Godfrey Ridout.

The star spangled banner

(Performed in Minneapolis)

Composer: John Stafford Smith.

Poet: Francis Scott Key.

Arr.: Bernard Dewagtere

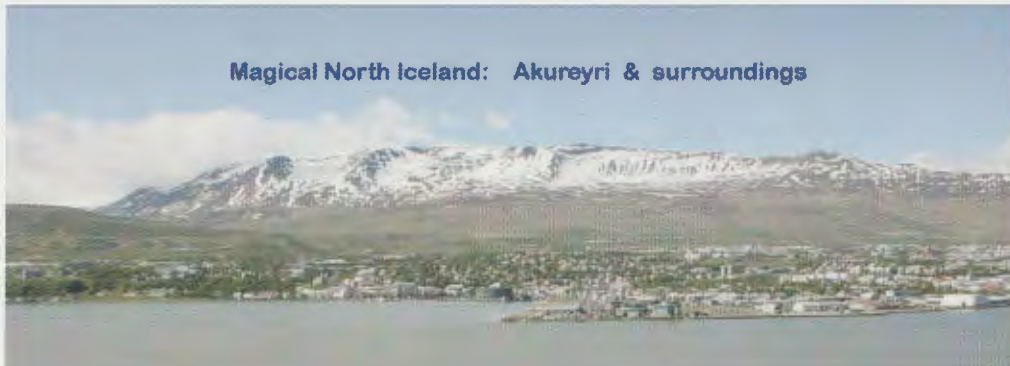
Lofsöngur

Poet: Matthías Jochumsson

Composer: Sveinbjörn Sveinbjörnsson

Arr.: Daníel Þorsteinsson

Magical North Iceland: Akureyri & surroundings



volcanos

moon-like landscapes

waterfalls



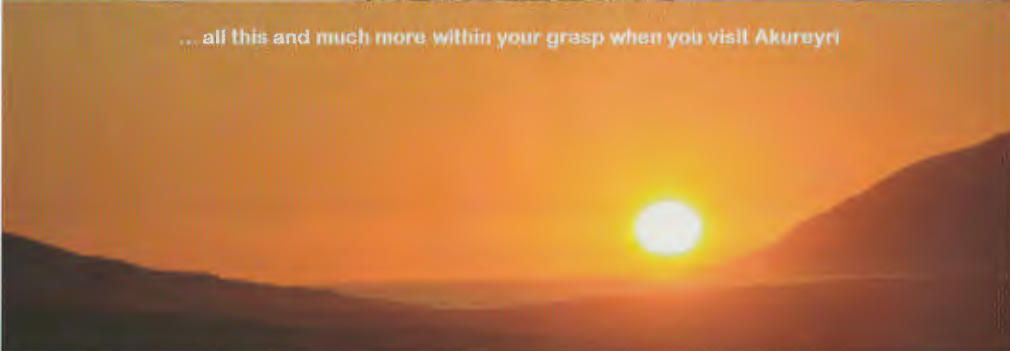
historical places

wildlife & untamed nature

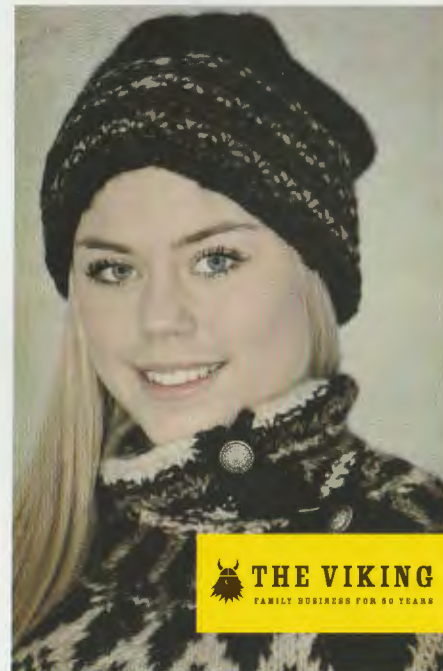
fjords & fishing villages



... all this and much more within your grasp when you visit Akureyri



Check out our website or contact us for more information:
www.nonnitravel.is - nonni@nonnitravel.is
 Phone: +354 481 1841



THE VIKING : INFO

Laugavegur 1 • Reykjavik • 581 1250
 Hafnarstræti 3 • Reykjavik • 551 1250
 Hafnarstræti 104 • Akureyri • 461 5551
 Aðalstræti 27 • Ísafjörður • 456 5552

email: info@theviking.is
www.theviking.is



NORÐLENSKA

Kvennakór Akureyrar would like thank these contributors:

Pípulagningarþjónusta Bjarna
 Jónassonar

Íþróttamiðstöð Glerárskóla