
SCOTT AND JOHANNA HONGELL-DARSEE

Medieval and Traditional Ballads

People have sung stories since times immemorial as a way to memorize and record history and myths, and to process our human condition with all its ups and downs. The songs we today call medieval and traditional ballads have their roots among Nordic epic sagas, French romantic lays, Celtic lore and World mythology. As these songs traveled, they 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 have been nominated for 3 New Mexico Music Awards. They are currently in and have had multiple hits on The Top 40 World Music Charts by Ethnocloud consecutively since August 2022. Their songs can also be found on several traditional music compilations.

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

- *The Spice of Life Soho, London, England*
- *La Parfumerie, Geneve, Switzerland*
- *Metronomen, Copenhagen, Denmark*
- *Mix Musik, Malmö, Sweden*
- *Provincetown Playhouse and Scandinavia House, NYC*
- *Outpost Performance Space with AMP Concerts, Albuquerque, NM*
- *Museum of International Folk Art, and International Folk Art Market, Santa Fe, NM*
- *Renaissance Faires: Medieval Fair of Norman, OK; Midsummers Fairytale Celtic Ren Fair, CA; Albuquerque Renaissance Faire, NM; Renaissance Celtic Faire, NM; Cavern City Renaissance Festival, NM; Lincoln Forest Renaissance Faire, NM; Fantasy Faire of Rio Rancho, NM*
- *Folk/Celtic Festivals: Traditional Music Society, Los Angeles, CA; Albuquerque Folk Festival, NM; Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival, NM*
- *Scandinavian Festivals of Estes Park, CO; Atlanta, GA; Los Angeles, CA; Thousand Oaks, CA; Lindsborg, KS; Albuquerque, NM*
- *Storytelling Festivals of Los Angeles, CA; Four Corners, NM; Taos, NM; 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 since 2005*

Johanna (vocals, woodwinds, stringed instruments, arrangements) was born in Finland. Apart from music, she has a background in theater and dance, with studies in theater in France and Bharata Natyam Dance in India. Since 2001 she has toured throughout the U.S. and Europe. Before relocating to New Mexico in 2001, she worked as a performing artist in Scandinavia, Europe, India, and the U.S. She also led the dance and theater *company Teater Bava* in Sweden for 10 years.

Scott (stringed instruments, arrangements, composer) was born in the USA. Before relocating to New Mexico, he spent 16 years in Europe, where parallel to his artistic work he traveled the globe as a consultant 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/>