



Meet Bud Larsen

Bud Larsen built his first Hardanger fiddle when he was in the seventh grade, over the years he's built more than 40 of the instruments and repaired well over 100.

He learned the craft from Gunnar Helland, a member of the Helland fiddle maker family from Norway, who ran a violin shop in Fargo, N.D. Larsen has the oldest Hardanger fiddle in existence. This fiddle was built in 1621.

Larsen now lives in Brainerd, Minn., but is working with apprentices in Fargo-Moorhead to bring back a folk instrument that for generations has gathered dust in attics and closets across the Midwest.

It can take several hundred hours to build a fiddle, but Larsen believes anyone can build one with enough patience and will.



Meet the Norwegian Bachelor Farmers

Kyle Elsberud

Kyle studied the Norwegian language at Decorah (IA) High School and Luther College, and later won a grant for a year's study, and later won a grant for a year's study abroad in Norway. There he began translating the music of Norwegian folk musician Lillebjørn

Nilsen, whose music forms the basis of the show.

David Kirkeby

Also a native of Decorah, IA, Dave returned to the Midwest after two decades in sunny Arizona. A master guitarist, Dave is thrilled to join his old band mate in a celebration of Scandinavian music and culture.

Norwegian Bachelor Farmers

Kyle and Dave have been delighting audiences for over two decades with their fun and upbeat blend of Scandinavian music, humor, and storytelling. Past credits include Midsommar Music Festival (Bishop Hill, IL), Nordic Fest (Decorah, IA), Norsk Høstfest (Minot, ND), Norwegian National League Parade (S Elgin, IL), and Scandinavian Day (Vasa Park, IL).