



Becky Idstrom, Communications and Marketing Director  
bidstrom@vesterheim.org • 563-382-9681  
More Info: [vesterheim.org/media-kit](https://vesterheim.org/media-kit)  
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## Vesterheim Receives Grant from American Scandinavian Foundation for New Exhibit

DECORAH, Iowa —Vesterheim, the National Norwegian-American Museum and Folk Art School, was awarded a Scandinavian Folk Arts & Cultural Traditions in the Upper Midwest grant from the American Scandinavian Foundation (ASF) in support of the upcoming Vesterheim exhibit “Hand Me Down the Fiddle: Norwegian Fiddlers, Fiddles, and Fiddle Tunes in the Upper Midwest,” and programming in connection with the exhibit.

Opening on August 15, 2024, “Hand Me Down the Fiddle” will tell the stories of significant Norwegian fiddlers who came to the Upper Midwest, as well as musicians and tune collectors from Norwegian-American communities.

The project consultant and guest curator for the exhibition is fiddler and music historian Beth Hoven Rotto. Visitors will have the opportunity to connect with the culture and experiences of exceptional, everyday musicians from the recent past to the present.

In addition to the exhibit, Vesterheim will present in-person and online events that showcase this unique musical heritage. There will be a gallery talk and an online multi-session music workshop Hoven-Rotto. Paul Sveinall (Marnardal, Norway) and Benedicte Maurseth (Bergen, Norway) will give fiddle lectures, and Karen Rebholz (Madison, Wisconsin) will demonstrate fiddle construction and decoration. There will be a Foot-Notes dance and music performances by fiddlers Nina Byttingsmyr (Froland, Norway) and Eden Ehm (Decorah, Iowa).

Vesterheim's Chief Curator, Laurann Gilbertson, expressed her gratitude to ASF for this support of activities. Visit the website at [vesterheim.org](https://vesterheim.org) for more details.

Vesterheim, the National Norwegian-American Museum and Folk Art School, welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds to engage in the conversation of the American immigrant journey through the lens of the Norwegian-American experience. Vesterheim offers innovative and interactive exhibits, classes, and programs, both at the dynamic campus and park in scenic Decorah, Iowa, and online at [vesterheim.org](https://vesterheim.org) and Vesterheim social media. For more information on exhibits, classes, programs, tours, membership opportunities, and ways to donate and volunteer, connect at [vesterheim.org](https://vesterheim.org), (563) 382-9681, and Vesterheim, 502 W. Water St., P.O. Box 379, Decorah, IA, 52101-0379.