

Plommon means Plum

by Cristina Seaborn

On August 4, the Swedish band Plommon, a five piece women's fiddle band, played at St. Cloud State University. They played traditional folk music from southern Sweden on fiddles, flute, drum, harmonium (pump organ) and vocals. Other performances by Plommon in Minnesota included August 21 at the Gammelgarden Museum in Scandia, August 20 in Shafer, August 22 at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, and August 24 at Pequot Lakes Auditorium in Brainerd.

Plommon has played together since the spring of 1991, when they met at a folk music course in Tomelilla, South Sweden. Members of the band have been playing southern Swedish folk music that they've picked up from local fiddlers since they were kids. Since beginning to play together in 1991, they have also been gaining inspiration and learning music from the rest of Sweden and Europe in general.

The summer of 1991, they had their public debut by playing for dancers every night at a folk music week in Helsingborg, South Sweden. In the summer of 1992,

they were invited to the folk music festival in Roskilde, Denmark, where they gave concerts and played music for dance sessions. In 1993, they recorded a cassette tape in Beagle studios outside of Kristianstad, South Sweden. The following year, 1994, Plommon stood as the Swedish representatives at an international folk music festival in Terchova, Slovakia. In 1995, they were asked to teach Swedish folk music and dancing at a week-long workshop and music festival in Mosenberg, Germany. They also performed concerts in Bremen, Germany. In 1996, they did a mini-tour of Kiel, Germany and also performed in schools in Sweden. That summer they played at a folk music festival in Højby, Denmark.

Every summer since 1993, Plommon has taught at a children and youth course in Burträsk, North Sweden. Kristianstad's district council awarded Plommon the 1996 cultural scholarship. Thanks to this scholarship, Plommon organized its first extended tour of Germany and Austria in the summer of 1997. The following

summer, 1998, Plommon returned to Germany and Austria and added Slovenia and Italy to extend their tour to six weeks. Plommon kicked off the summer of 1999 with an 11-week tour covering Sweden, Germany, Austria, Italy, the Czech republic, Luxembourg, and the U.S. Following this, they will concentrate on the Nordic countries, playing in Sweden, Denmark and Iceland during the winter.

Plommon released its first CD, *Plommon*, in 1996 on the BG Staaf Siljum label. In the last few years they have focused exclusively on southern Swedish folk music. In the fall of 1998, they recorded a CD, *Emma*, in Theinstudio in Bremen, Germany. It's now available on the Akku label. Most recently, they have been working more and more on their own original compositions. This project was recently released on the CD, *Kalifia*.

For more information about future tours of Plommon, contact Cristina Seaborn at 320-654-9048 ✉