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## Bits & Pieces

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# Bits & Pieces



## Swedish American of the Year 2016:

### Nils Lofgren

*Nils Hilmer Lofgren* has been selected for this honor by the two Swedish lodges of the *Vasa Order of America*.

Nils Lofgren was born 21 June 1951, in Chicago. He is an American rock musician, recording artist, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist. Along with his work as a solo artist, he is a member of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band since 1984. Lofgren was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a member of the E Street Band in 2014.

Nils Lofgren's grandfather August *Hilmer Löfgren* immigrated to the U.S. in 1911 from Lysvik (Vrml.).



## Water color painter *Lars Lerin* has been given a royal medal

*Lars Lerin*, who just had a very successful exhibition of his art at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, MN, was among the people honored with the royal medal *Litteris et Artibus*, for his contributions to painting and literature. The medal was instituted in 1853.

## A new Swedish saint

A Swedish nun who rescued several Jews in Rome during World War Two is set to become the Nordic country's second saint – more than six centuries after her predecessor Saint Bridget (*Heliga Birgitta*).

Pope Francis on 5 June canonized *Elisabeth Hesselblad*, whose portrait already hangs in St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. She will be following in the footsteps of Saint Bridget (Birgitta), who was canonized in 1391.

Maria Elisabeth Hesselblad was born in 1870 and died in Rome in 1957. She was beatified – the first step before sainthood – by Pope John Paul II in 2000. She worked as a nurse in the United States when she converted to Catholicism. She founded a new form of life of the Bridgettines known as the Bridgettine Sisters. She continued to dedicate her life to ecumenism and the poor.



## The Jenny Lind scholarship 2016

Mezzo soprano *Karin Osbeck* from Stockholm, Sweden, has received the 2016 Jenny Lind Scholarship, which includes a singing tour in America. She has already performed at Augustana College.



## New photo exhibition at ASI

The famous Swedish chef *Magnus Nilsson* from the Fäviken Magasinet Restaurant in Jämtland exhibits his photos of Swedish nature at the ASI in Minneapolis from **2 June** through **14 August**.

The project is called “Nordic – A Photographic Essay of Landscapes, Food and People.”

Magnus Nilsson has recently also written “The Nordic Cook Book” with all kinds of tantalizing recipes.

## Swedish Council of America (SCA) has awarded three Proclamations

Since 2012 SCA has recognized significant milestones in affiliated organizations' histories or outstanding achievements made by public figures in Swedish-North America. This award is called a SCA Proclamation. At the meeting in Seattle in April SCA Proclamations were given to three different recipients: *Swedish Club* in Seattle for their twenty years of having given opportunities to individuals interested in learning Swedish; to *Nordic Heritage Museum* of Tacoma, WA, for having during almost four decades of spreading the knowledge of Nordic culture; and to the *Swedish American Historical Museum* in Philadelphia for their 90 years of devotion to the Swedish cultural heritage in the Delaware Valley.