



For Immediate Release

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Scandinavian Heritage Foundation
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Scandinavians Celebrate 87th Annual Midsummer Festival

Scandinavian Heritage Foundation & League of Swedish Societies

Special Guest Artists from Finland

Olli Hirvonen & Saku Mattila

Saturday, June 13, 2015

11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Music, Dancing, Games, Nordic Food, Vendors, Beer Garden

Raising of the Maypole (Majstång) and Scandinavian of the Year at 1 p.m.

Kids' Zone 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Oaks Park, 7805 SE Oaks Park Way, Portland, OR

\$7 adults

\$6 Seniors/Students

\$15 families (2 adults, 2 students)

Under 12 - free.

Scandinavians have a long tradition of celebrating the Summer Solstice with bonfires or raising of the Maypole (Majstång). In Portland that tradition is being celebrated for the 87th continuous year at the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival.

Scandinavian roots are not required to celebrate at this summer solstice festival. As all people of Nordic descent know, it's always a fun, family friendly and important day with centuries old traditions.

Enjoy Scandinavian foods and crafts, a Kids' Zone, two stages of entertainment promising continuous entertainment of live music and dancing, all with a Nordic flavor, and a beer garden.

Kids Zone, a family-friendly space sponsored by IKEA and the Swedish School of Portland

For children the highlight of the day is taking part in decorating and raising the maypole. Adults and children alike dance around the pole together and sing traditional songs at 1 pm.

Scandinavian Midsummer Festival – June 13, 2015 at Oaks Park, p. 2

Scandinavian Midsummer is a collaboration of the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation and the League of Swedish Societies. Lead sponsors are the **Scan|Design Foundation, IKEA Portland, The Oregonian, Museum of Danish America** and **Carol Tripp**.

The Scandinavian Midsummer Festival is an important cultural event for the entire Portland community regardless of heritage. It is one of the many ways SHF and the League of Swedish Societies, along with the regional Scandinavian community, demonstrate and preserve their Nordic heritage.

More about the Kids' Zone: A great way to introduce children to the young side of Nordic culture. Once again, the Swedish School is hosting the Kids' Zone, which is located in the courtyard near the North Stage. Swedish and American parents from the school oversee games and the kids can make the popular Nordic-themed crafts they've come to expect at Midsummer. The Kids' Zone is free and is open from 11 am to 6 pm. Stop by and have fun with your kids and craft a last minute Nordic Father's Day gift. Välkommen!

Guitarist **Olli Hirvonen** & oboist **Saku Mattila**, both from Finland, play improvisations inspired by the music of Jean Sibelius. They present their own takes of these classic melodies, liberating them from the original context and giving them a new life as inspiration for completely new musical statements inspired not only by Sibelius, but also themes of Finland, summer and love. Coming from jazz and classical backgrounds respectively, they combine these different musical worlds effortlessly creating a truly personal style. After playing together for almost eight years, Hirvonen and Mattila have developed a deep music and personal connection that helps lift the music to new heights.

Danish born physical comedian **Henrik Bothe** connects audiences with laughter. From the Tonight Show to Chinese Television, Henrik has made people joyfully complain of faces hurting from laughter all over the world. His show is an eloquent mix of comedy and circus skills.

Fossegrimen Dans Orkestra plays folk dance music from Norway and Sweden on traditional instruments. The group was founded by David and Claire Elliker-Vågsberg in 1999. David leads the group and performs on fiddle, Hardanger fiddle and nyckelharpa.