“Proving why Swedish folk music deserves to be better known.”

-Rambles.net
Svanevit • Gryning........................................NTCD01/WP87123

In a short period of time, Swedish folk music group Svanevit has firmly been established on the Nordic music scene. With this critically acclaimed debut album, they travel through an ancient world of sagas and myths. The result is both new and at the same time retrospective, drawing inspiration from the past. The music is filled with an anticlimax and narrative zest giving the sounds, magic and legends a chance to live on in our time. Svanevit consists of Anders Larsson (vocals, mandola, mandoline) and Karin Wallin (vocals, mandola, mandolin). Their ancient instruments in an easy and obvious manner, seldom heard today. The centre of the interplay between the harp and the bagpipe - a combination of instruments famous from Celtic music but here with an unmistakable Nordic colour. A CD that conveys the ancient tradition of Swedish folk music, delving back in time to its medieval roots!

“Without exception the tunes are thrilling, performed with a breathtaking skill and charm.” -Rock'n'Reel, UK

Anna Rynefors & Erik Ask-Upmark • Dräm...............NTCD02/WP87127

“Dräm” means "drone" in Swedish and the dröm is at the very heart of this duo’s music-making, using instruments such as the harp, Swedish bagpipe and Nyckelharpa to capture the essence of Swedish folk music. The musicians, Anna Rynefors (Swedish bagpipe, Nyckelharpa, rebeck, percussion) and Erik Ask-Upmark (harp, Swedish bagpipe, Medieval bagpipe) skilfully handle their ancient instruments in an easy and obvious manner, seldom heard today. At the centre of the interplay between the harp and the bagpipe - a combination of instruments famous from Celtic music but here with an unmistakable Nordic colour. A CD that conveys the ancient tradition of Nordic music.

Maria Röjås • Silvervingar små och stora..................NTCD03

Maria Röjås is, quite simply, one of Sweden’s top-of-the-line folk singers and comes from a family steeped in musical tradition. Her repertoire of medieval ballads, folksongs and dance melodies is simply enormous – a small excerpt of which can be heard on this CD. This is an album that will of course be appreciated by those with a special interest in Swedish traditional vocal music, but there is also a lot to offer all who simply enjoy beautiful singing at its best! The album features solo songs a capella as well as instrumental accompaniment and the overall impression leaves the listener with a compelling impression of a truly unrivalled musical legacy.

“Maria Röjås has set the standard for Swedish folk song of today. A combination of traditional knowledge, dazzling technique and a conscious simplicity. Traditional singing frankly does not come better than this.” -Lira Musikmagasin, SE

Jonas Simonson • Crane Dance....................................NTCD08

During the last 25 years, Jonas Simonson has been seen and heard in a number of influential, not to say seminal, bands on the Swedish folk music scene: Kapella, Kapell Frisell, Den Fule, Bäsk, Folkmasskinnen... He remains one of Sweden’s most renowned folk fiddlers and is now taking a step further with his very first solo album - Crane Dance. This is an album that will of course be appreciated by those with a special interest in Swedish traditional vocal music, but there is also a lot to offer all who simply enjoy beautiful singing at its best! The album features solo songs a capella as well as instrumental accompaniment and the overall impression leaves the listener with a compelling impression of a truly unrivalled musical legacy.

“Her sense of rhythm is strong and unfailing, and at the same time everything seems to happen without any effort. Remarkable!” -Sydsvenskan, SE

Anna Rynefors • Nyckelharpa..................................NTCD04

Röjås Jonas (1921-1989), Maria Röjås’s father, came from Boda in Dalarna and was one of the greatest fiddlers in the history of Swedish traditional music. He passed away in 1989 but even today, almost 20 years later, his talent and fame remain an important influence for many fiddlers in Sweden and abroad. Most of the material on this CD was recorded by Jonas himself during the early 70’s, just before the big folk music burst, and it’s a testament to the legacy of one of the great legends of traditional music!

“Regardless of if you like polskas or not, or even if you claim to be allergic to fiddles, you just can’t defend yourself against the power of Röjås Jonas’s playing. And above all, it’s such a clear link between the old and the new.” -Groove, SE

Mattias Pérez trio • MP3...........................................NTCD10

Mattias Pérez Trio is one of the most exciting and active young groups of today’s Swedish folk music! Their first CD is a sparkling and very accessible collection of tunes that will appeal to all lovers of Nordic music, as well as forming a great start for those still unfamiliar with the genre. The music consists of traditional material (mostly from Värmland in Western Sweden) combined with some new compositions. The musicians are: Mattias Pérez (guitar, harmonica), Nina Anderberg (fiddle), Mia Marin (fiddle, vocals). “Showing great skill, the two fiddlers take centre stage with their extraordinary musicality and impressive way of playing. Meanwhile, the guitar is an ever-supportive, stabilizing influence that shines by itself in the solo pieces.” -Dagens Nyheter, SE

Svanevit • Rikedom och gåvor.............................NTCD11/WP87156

Svanevit is back with their second CD, this time delving into the treasure trove of traditional music from southern Sweden. The material consists of the notations of legendary fiddler and music collector John Enninger and consists of polskas as well as polkas, love songs, waltzes and medieval ballads, to name a few. “It’s simply irresistible - music from and for the heart and soul. Anders Larsson’s singing style is captivating and understated, with love and religion being the main themes. Enchanting, beguiling. Very highly recommended.” -Tapas, UK

Karin Wallin • Guldspolska..................................NTCD12

Karin Wallin from Skåne in southern Sweden is one of the region’s most established and acclaimed folk musicians. She received the prestigious Gold Zorn award in the summer of 2007, an honour bestowed only on the very finest musicians in the Swedish tradition. Karin Wallin was born and raised in Helsingborg into a musical family where her father worked as a traditional music researcher for many years, often bringing Karin along on his journeys. Karin prefers her fiddle retuned to create an especially rich and magnificent sound, which together with her playing style makes for a distinctly unique and mesmerizing experience! This CD was nominated for the “Vierettjahrespreis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik” 4/2008.

Jeanette Eriksson • Låtar på skånska......................NTCD05

Jeanette Eriksson (fiddle) is one of Sweden’s most promising young traditional musicians. Already back in 2002 she was awarded the title rikskapelmann ("master musician of the realm") at the age of sixteen, a feat almost unheard of. On this CD, Jeanette has collected tunes from her native county of Skåne in southern Sweden and performs them with a remarkable zest and pizzazz. A pleasure to listen to and a real treat for anyone who loves superbly performed traditional music!

“A very engaging and enjoyable recording.” -Dirty Linen, US

Erik Ask-Upmark • Himlens polska............................NTCD07

This is the first solo CD ever with Swedish folk music played on the folk (Celtic) harp! Centuries ago, harps were heard in Nordic and Swedish traditional music, but somehow the tradition faded away - until now, when it is finally re-awakened. Erik Ask-Upmark’s playing is unique and his arrangements of the rhythmically challenging Swedish folk music for the harp really captivates the listener! The repertoire consists of dance tunes (mostly the common polska dance) as well as beautiful slow airs and bridal marches.

“Ask-Upmark’s playing style is lively and full of life, and while you wouldn’t normally associate harps with instrumental solos, his mastery of the instrument gives the slower pieces a sense of flow and emotion. This might be the first Swedish harp album, but judging by the results, it shouldn’t be the last!” -Dirty Linen (US)