



## Unit 14: LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Photo: Nancy Bundt,  
Innovation Norway, visitnorway.com

### WHAT'S A SUMMARY OR A REPORT?

The writing required by a learning activity is used to explain what you've experienced or learned. Focus on what you learned and not on spelling or grammar; your report is not graded. And, if it makes writing easier, just imagine writing a letter to a friend! Please write a minimum of 2 or 3 paragraphs unless otherwise stated in the elective. However, if you wish to write more and would like to enclose additional photos, articles, etc., please feel free to do so.

This section describes the learning activities from which you may select three—one for each part of the music unit. All the activities are appropriate for all three levels of this unit. Only one learning activity needs to be completed per part, although more may be done if you wish. If the activity you choose directs you to write a short summary or report, use the back of the Pin Application Form or submit a separate document.

- 1 Start (or participate in) a music listening group of three or more individuals gathered together to listen, discuss, and share Norwegian music. Choose recordings from material suggested in this unit or from the Sons of Norway CD catalog (available from Sons of Norway website [www.sonsofnorway.com](http://www.sonsofnorway.com)). Group members may also suggest recordings from their own collections. The group might meet once and listen to several recordings from their own collections, or it might meet regularly and listen to just one recording per meeting. Set a date and time and announce this to the lodge and in your newsletter. Include in your final report the printed newsletter announcement. Choose three of the recordings that have impressed you and complete Listening Report Forms for those.
- 2 Start (or participate in) a music exchange group. Share one or more Norwegian music recordings with members of the group. Agree on how long each member borrows a recording, and how the recordings are passed from member to member. Announce this to the lodge and in your newsletter. Include in your final report the printed newsletter announcement. Choose three recordings that you have shared and complete Listening Report Forms for those.
- 3 Keep a music listening journal. Check public radio and public broadcast schedules for listings of Norwegian music throughout the year, especially around May 17, in June around Midsummer's Day, in October around Leif Erikson Day, and in December during Advent and at Christmas. Listeners living in areas more heavily populated by those of Scandinavian heritage might have more opportunities to hear and see these programs. Share this information with others in your lodge and community. Compile a list of ten compositions and composers and include it in the space provided on the Pin Application Form.
- 4 Share your musical talent. For example, learn at least three Norwegian songs (in Norwegian or in English) and arrange with your program chairman and lodge musician to lead a Norwegian sing-a-long. Contact Sons of Norway Headquarters about the CD "Sing-a-long I", which includes many delightful songs for group singing with accordion, piano, guitar and bass. This CD also includes piano accompaniments for all the national anthems sung at lodge meetings. If you are an instrumentalist, set up an informal recital of Norwegian music. Soloists, duos, trios or small groups can perform. Communication, preparation, practice, and teamwork are all essential. Announce your program to your lodge and in your newsletter. Write a short report about your experience and include it in the space provided on the Pin Application Form.
- 5 Write a music review. Attend a concert of Norwegian and/or other Scandinavian music and share your listening experience. Concerts are often a part of Norwegian/Scandinavian festivals in the United States, Canada, Norway, or other Scandinavian countries. Closer to home, perhaps your local professional, college, or high school orchestra, chamber group, choir, or band performs Norwegian or other Scandinavian music. Draw your own conclusions about the performances. Use the Listening Response Form as a guide for your review, or write it your own way. If you are comfortable doing so, submit your review to the editor of your newsletter for possible publication or check with your program chairman about sharing your review with your lodge. Include your review in the space provided on the Pin Application Form.
- 6 Interview music-makers in your lodge or community. Talk with any individuals who are or have been involved in music in any way (not just Norwegian or other Scandinavian music). Ask these individuals about their own experiences, musical studies, the joys and frustrations of music, and any related thoughts or questions you have. If you are or have been involved in music in any way (e.g. harmonica-player, piano lessons, choir or glee club, orchestra or band), ask yourself the same questions. Submit your interviews with your other materials and Pin Application Form.

- 7 Arrange a musical presentation or mini-presentation. Request video and/or slide presentations about Norwegian music from your lodge or the Sons of Norway media lending library. Arrange a presentation date and time with your program chairman and prepare the material for your group. Announce your presentation to the lodge and in your newsletter. Write a short report about your experience and include it in the space provided on the Pin Application Form.
- 8 Explore Sissel Kyrkjebø recordings. Several are available through the Sons of Norway media lending library – to find a complete list, just sign in to the “Members Login” section of [www.sonsofnorway.com](http://www.sonsofnorway.com). Complete a Listening Response Form for at least one recording.
- 9 Explore Christmas music from Norway and the Norwegian Communities in North America. Choose one recording and complete a Listening Report Form. Comment about when and how you first learned the Christmas songs familiar to you, about the songs new to you, and about any Christmas memories you wish to share. A number of songs can be found in the two Norwegian/English songbooks mentioned in Part Three, the Sons of Norway songbook or in any songbooks you have available. Some songs appear on more than one recording.
- 10 Submit a copy of a work of art (drawing, sketch, painting, cartoon, etc.) you created as a result of listening to and/or performing Norwegian music.
- 11 Learn to play folk dance tunes for lodge dance activities. Report on tunes learned and activities participated in. Comment on the differences between playing for dancing vs. playing for listening.
- 12 Create your own learning activity. Don’t see the learning activity that you wish to do? Make a suggestion by emailing [culturalskills@sofn.com](mailto:culturalskills@sofn.com), or call (800) 945-8851 and ask for Cultural Skills.