



# Smörgåsballad

## Songs and Tales from the Land of the Midnight Sun Company Information Sheet

<b>Name of Company/Artist :</b> Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer
<b>Name of Administrator/Contact:</b> Vicki Swan – <a href="mailto:vicki@swan-dyer.co.uk">vicki@swan-dyer.co.uk</a>
<b>Programme on Offer :</b> Smörgåsballad – Songs and Tales from the Land of the Midnight Sun
<b>Accommodation:</b> 1 double
<b>Number of Performers:</b> 2
<b>Target audience/audience restrictions:</b> Suitable for the whole family <b>Target venue type:</b> All venues
<p><b>Description of Event:</b></p> <p>Smörgåsballad is an evening of music and tales from the Sweden. Using songs and stories the show follows customs and celebrations throughout the Swedish year from Easter to the Crayfish party in August. Two performers take you on a journey using a diverse range of traditional instruments (cow horn, willow flute, Swedish bagpipes and nyckelharpa supplement the better known guitar, mandola and accordion). Vicki is the most foremost exponent of the nyckelharpa in the UK (Swedish keyed-fiddle).</p> <p>The set comprises a black backdrop with uplighters, two pop-up flats featuring the iconic Swedish artist Anders Zorn and also DMX controlled lighting rig. This show is suitable for people with visual impairments.</p> <p><b>Menu Copy:</b></p> <p>Smörgåsballad is an evening of music and tales from the Sweden. Banish the winter blues by finding out about the tradition of the Easter Witches, what happens if you pick seven different wild flowers and put them under your pillow at Midsummer, the real meaning of the midsummer majstång and participate in some traditional drinking songs celebrating the crayfish season. Be introduced to the ancient cow horn, willow flute, Swedish bagpipes and the ethereal nyckelharpa. A visual treat for the eyes and the ears be transported to the land of the midnight sun and enjoy some "nordic noir tales" and fall in love with the heroes and heroines.</p> <p><b>Smörgåsbord</b> is a type of Swedish meal served buffet- style with multiple hot and cold dishes of various foods on a table.</p> <p><b>Smörgåsballad</b> is a Swedish buffet style offering of tales and stories</p>
<b>Length of programme :</b> 2 hours: 50 minute first half / 25 minute interval / 45 minute second half
<b>Get-in time required :</b> 1 hour acoustic or 2 hours with PA <b>Get-out time required :</b> 1 hour acoustic or 1.5 hours with PA
<p><b>Technical Requirements:</b></p> <p>Stage area minimum: 3m x 3m x 2.5m If a stage is available this can be used, if not, floor height is fine as the performers stand. Lighting rig and stage backdrop are used as standard (provided by the performers) PA can be provided as appropriate 2 x electricity sockets required.</p>

### **Publicity Materials**

A5 fliers, A4 posters and A3 posters can be supplied. There are downloads and hi resolution images on the website:

<http://www.smorgasballad.co.uk/contact.html>

### **Audience Quotes:**

*"A show with something for everyone!"*

*"A really excellent fun evening"*

*"I have never seen my audience gather round the main guest at the interval in such numbers as when Vicki Swan and Jonny Dyer performed at Uxbridge Folk Club. This is a reflection of their contagious fun attitude while at the same time producing serious professional and educative music. Total audience engagement, just what a folk club needs!" Uxbridge Folk Club*

### **Review Quotes:**

Living Tradition

*"With a wealth of instrumental talent between them, Vicki & Jonny present arrangements that are refreshing, uplifting and enthralling"*

Haverfolk

*"Television is dominated by Scandinavian crime dramas but few have been as bleak and gripping as some of the songs and tales we heard at HaverFolk when the club's old friends Vicki Swan and Jonny Dyer dropped in. They came to give us a sneak preview of Smorgasballad, their new show which sprang from Vicki's Swedish roots (her mother comes from that lovely country). We've often seen Vicki playing her nyckelharpa, the wonderful keyed violin from her homeland, but Smorgasballad offers a splendid introduction to Swedish culture with drinking songs, Maypole dancing, drinking songs, Midsummer celebrations, drinking songs, crayfish parties – did I mention the drinking songs? – and some folk tales.*

*And this is where the hint of Nordic noir creeps in with the chilling stories of Easter Witches, a Swedish version of the Pied Piper and feuding magicians. Plus a murder ballad that might be considered too grim even for an episode of Wallander. This was Vicki's debut as a storyteller and she certainly has a talent for it. As for the music, it was of course of the high standard we have come to expect from this talented duo."*

### **The show has the following adverts online for viewing:**

There is a video playlist on the front page of the website:

<http://www.smorgasballad.co.uk>

There is also a dedicated Rural Touring scheme entry page:

<http://www.smorgasballad.co.uk/RT>

### **Other information:**

All members have full, enhanced CRB checks in place, are covered for public liability insurance by the Musicians Union and are UK citizens with the right to work in the UK. We also have a risk assessment. All our electrical equipment have current PAT tests.