

Völva

Scandinavian
Spiritual Traditions
by Kari Tauring



Kari Tauring and Drew Miller combine to form the **Huldre Duo**: concert performances with vocals, staving (stick rhythm), and storytelling from the deep Scandinavian tap root.

"Kari and Drew...rhythmically pound staffs on the ground in cross rhythms while Kari vocalizes in words not English...her manner is warm and open both on stage and off... Kari's shamanic Norse vocals echo, distort, and engulf." – Mark Mansfield, Stereo Subversion

Tauring waves her antler feather fan to conjure spirits that hover and soar around her classically trained voice. The bone beads of her Bronze Age string skirt punctuate rune spells to the pols (pulse) of her stav. Miller's melodic dulcimer dances around dark drones and slippery beats.

"If you consider Björk the high priestess of vocal-centric, Nordic-rooted experimental sounds, then try the middle priestess of that same genre, Kari Tauring. Her signature track is 'Morsja Vihtelmine,' which features the percussive stomp of Tauring's magical staff." – Chris Clayton, Twin Cities Metro

Their first release "*Völva Songs*" (EP, 2008, Omnium) includes stringed instruments and rich layered vocals.

"Tauring's voice is a supple, evocative instrument with an admirable range of expression..." – Green Man Review

"The most exotic part of this six-song EP is the voice of Kari Tauring. Closer listening... reveals strangeness in the tunings of the instruments; certain notes sound slightly dissonant, giving the music a haunting quality that matches Tauring's singing." – Dirty Linen

Their latest release "*Kari Tauring and Huldre – Live at the Capri*" (CD, 2009) is a beautifully recorded set of this duo's most recent arrangements. This concert takes the listener on a Scandinavian journey, beginning in the Bronze Age (circa 1300 BCE) with stav and string skirts, then to the Viking Era with rune *galdor* (sung spells using the rune alphabet) and Old Norse lyrics. We land in the Immigrant Era, having left our beloved homeland to come to America. More than 800,000 Norwegians (nearly one-third of Norway's population) emigrated between 1825 and 1925. Most settled in Minnesota and Wisconsin, including Ms. Tauring's maternal family.

Kari Tauring is the author of "The Runes: A Human Journey" published in 2007 and is working on her second book, "Völva Stav." Drawing on over 20 years of research and experience, her music is intensely emotional and thoroughly researched. In 2009, Ms. Tauring traveled to Norway to participate in "Alt for Norge," a reality show about Norwegian-Americans discovering their roots that will air in 2010.

Drew Miller is the founder of pioneering folk-rock band Boiled In Lead, runs the Omnium Records label, and worked for many years to bring Nordic music to North America with the NorthSide label.



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