



VASA ORDEN AV AMERIKA  
En svensk-amerikansk vänskaps- och kulturorganisation  
**Kommittén för Årets Svensk-Amerikan 2016**

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Chairman  
Swedish American of the Year  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

## Vasa Order of America has chosen the Swedish American of the Year

*Nils Hilmer Lofgren*, born June 21, 1951, is a professional musician, a recording artist, outstanding in the field of rock music, a songwriter and a multi-instrumentalist.

Nils Lofgren has Swedish origin on his father's side. His grandfather emigrated from Sweden to the state of Oregon in 1911. The Lofgren family has its origin in Värmland. Lofgren is devoted to his Swedish heritage and keeps in contact with his Swedish relatives. On his mother's side Nils Lofgren has Italian roots. Lofgren was born in Chicago. While still a child the family moved to the Washington D.C. suburb of Bethesda, Maryland.

At the age of five years Lofgren started to play classical accordion, and seriously studying it for ten years. Then Lofgren switched focus to rock music and emphasized developing his skills on the guitar and piano. He turned professional at 17.

In the early 1970s Lofgren toured and recorded with own band *Grin* as well as with *Neil Young* as a member of his band. He was also a member of *Crazy Horse* during the recording of their first album. In 1975 he released his first solo album and has continued a prolific solo career since with hits such as "Back It Up", "Keith Don't Go", "I Came to Dance" and "Shine Silently".

In 1984, he joined *Bruce Springsteen* and the *E Street Band* in time for Springsteen's *Born in the U.S.A.* tour. Many tours and records have followed with Bruce Springsteen and E Street band throughout the next 32 years. Intermittently during this engagement Lofgren has developed his solo career and continued to release solo albums as well as collaborations with other artists.

As a member of E Street band Lofgren was inducted into the *Rock and Roll Hall of Fame* in 2014. In 2015, Nils Lofgren received the *Classic Rock Roll of Honour Outstanding Contribution Award* in London, England.

In 2014, an extensive box set, *Face the Music*, was released to celebrate Lofgren's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an artist. Nils now resides in Arizona with his wife of 20 years, *Amy Lofgren*, their son *Dylan* and their dogs.

Nils and Amy are also active in a number of charities, most notably, CASS Homeless Shelters of Phoenix, Concerned Citizens for Community Health; a food bank and services center in Scottsdale, and are good will ambassadors for Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah.

The *Vasa Order of America* has the great honor to recognize Nils Lofgren as the *Swedish American of the Year 2016*.

The recognition ceremony will be held in Gothenburg during the Springsteen and E Street Band tour this summer.

On behalf of the Swedish American of the Year Committee 2016  
*Catherine Bringselius Nilsson*  
Chairman

#### About Vasa Order of America.

*Yearly, since 1960, a Swedish American of the Year has been chosen by the Swedish branch of the Vasa Order of America(\*). The purpose is to set focus on Sweden America and the Swedish Americans, either they are related to early emigrants from Sweden or emigrants from late decades.*

*Partly the award is meant to be a recognition of exceptional work by an individual in his or her profession and/or valuable work for promoting good relations between Sweden and the US or Canada, partly it is meant to highlight Sweden America.*

*By now 56 persons have been rewarded with this recognition. They represent a wide area of competition and talents, women as well as men.*

#### Last years' recipients of the Swedish American of the Year Award:

2008 Barbro Osher, Consul General, 2009 Anne-Charlotte Hanes Harvey, Drama Professor, 2010 John E. Norton, Historian, 2011 Kerstin Lane, Director Swedish Museum Center, Chicago, 2012 Ingvar Wikstrom, Entrepreneur of Swedish Food Culture, 2013 Martina Arfwidson CEO Face Stockholm, 2014 C. Fred Bergsten, Economist, 2015 Emily Tepe, Artist.

Earlier recipients are Nobel Prize Winner Dr Glenn T. Seaborg, Astronaut Edwin Aldrin and Actress Signe Hasso.

*(\* ) Vasa Order of America is a non-profit organization started by Swedish Emigrants' in the USA in 1896. Since 1924 there is a Swedish branch of the Vasa Order of America.*