

## Accordion



*Tom Willy Rustad learned to play the two-row accordion both from his father and his grandfather*



CD 1 – 9 Tom Willy Rustad, two-row accordion: Halling etter Jørn Hilme, etter Helge Myrheim (Valdres)

The two-row button accordion has nowadays become the most common type of accordion when playing older folk music. But it was the one-row which dominated in the villages, up until the 1880s. Both one- and two-row accordions are diatonic, and it is the characteristic of these instruments is that they are bisonoric, that each button has two different notes depending on whether the bellows are pushed or pulled.

The accordion's arrival in the villages was not completely without controversy. In some places, the old fiddle playing and this new instrument could co-exist harmoniously, and

even be used together. In other places, the accordion was seen as a threat to the old tradition. The fiddle-players were in many places superseded, when this new phenomenon with its contemporary *ërunddansí* music appeared. This took the work of playing for dancing away from them. The - powerful sound made a completely new impact. The tonality was unlike that of the older music, being unfamiliar to many.

In recent times, it is the Toradertrioen (The Two-Row Trio) from Hallingdal has reignited interest in the two-row accordion. In Hallingdal, there was always a strong tradition in using diatonic accordion for *springar* and *laus* (halling). This tune style differs from the normal *gammeldans* repertoire.

After a while the big chromatic accordion came on the scene. It spread from the towns throughout the countryside, and accordionists gained a large audience. Today, we are likely to find fiddles and accordions combined in *spelemannslag*, even alongside guitar and bass. It is probably *gammeldans* music which is most used in these *spelemannslag* and their annual events and festivals for this kind of music. The accordion, however, has never gained access to fiddle competitions.



*Jon Faukstad, Gudbrandsdalen*