



The **BIG Big Band From Sweden** is here as part of their 10th US tour since their first in 1975. Their June 15-July 6 itinerary includes concerts in California and Arizona.

The BIG Big Band From Sweden includes young people in their late teens right through to members who have played in the band for more than 40 years! Band members come from several small villages in

the Southern province
of Sweden called Skåne—the Swedish province closest to Denmark.

The band includes full-time musicians, teachers, doctors, engineers, farmers, professors, high school and university students and homemakers.

The band was begun by Christian music teacher, Erik Karp, in 1955 as a way of reaching youth with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Forty-five years ago, Erik literally “passed the baton” to his son, Ingemar, who has directed the band ever since! Ingemar’s son, Olof, plays drums in the band....that makes three generations of Karp family members.

Sixty-one years after the band was begun, this outstanding group has performed all over Scandinavia, northern Europe and America. They have played for television specials on Swedish Television.

In Sweden the band is known as Röke Blas or Röke Musikkår. Normally a “big band” includes seventeen players. This group is probably the “biggest big band in the world”! The Swedish word “blås” means “blow” and musikkår” means “music corp”.

Coming with the band Vincent Nilsson, a band alum, who now is one of the most well-known jazz trombonists in northern Europe. Vincent has been featured artist in the Big Band at Europe’s most famous amusement park--Copenhagen’s famed Tivoli Garden. He is also a member of the Royal Danish Radio Big Band.

Special guest Frank Ådahl is being featured on the band’s 2016 tour. Frank is considered the best male gospel singer in Sweden today. He has appeared on Swedish radio and television and in concert

throughout Scandinavia.

The band's 2016 California/Arizona tour will include 18 concerts. Band members will be overnight guests in over 400 homes. This final US tour includes some sightseeing in San Francisco, California's Central Valley, Vineyards near Paso Robles, Disneyland, southern California's beaches, San Diego, Tucson, a water park in Tempe, AZ, and Arizona's "cowboy town", Wickenburg where they will experience the 4th of July.

If you know anyone who would enjoy this group at an upcoming concert, please let them know where and when the band will perform.