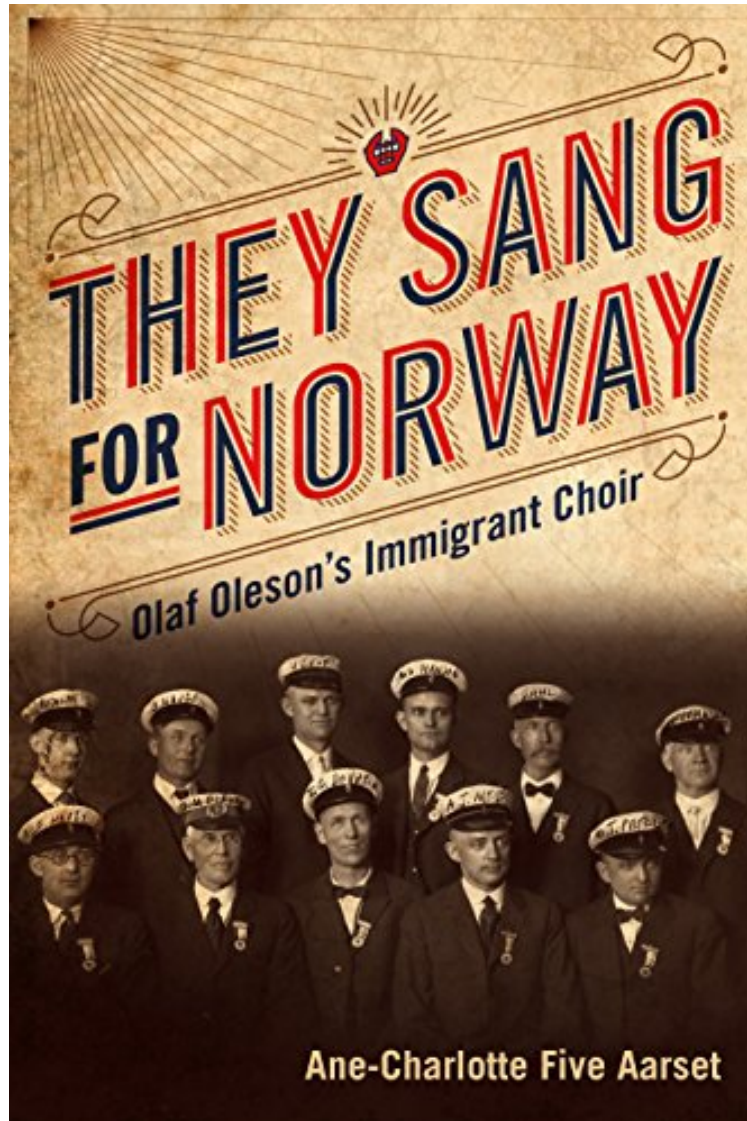


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They Sang for Norway: Olaf Oleson's Immigrant Choir

Ane-Charlotte Five Aarset

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Ane-Charlotte Five Aarset : They Sang for Norway: Olaf Oleson's Immigrant Choir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised They Sang for Norway: Olaf Oleson's Immigrant Choir:

They were brothers from Norway's "Red County." One was a guerrilla leader, the other a president of a singing

association. One emigrated to America, the other stayed home to fight for Norwegian independence. Both had an impact on their nation's history. This is the story of the one who left. Olaf Martin Oleson was among the hundreds of thousands of Norwegians who emigrated to the United States during the nineteenth century. With strongly rooted connections to the homeland, Oleson settled in the Midwest and became a successful businessman, philanthropist, and politician. He also helped form influential organizations in his new land, including the Norwegian-American Historical Association and the Norwegian Singers' Association of America. With the choir group, Oleson shared songs of his native Norway throughout North America—while raising money to support the illegal army and new political party forming back home in the fight for liberation from Sweden. In *They Sang for Norway*, Ane-Charlotte Five Aarset tells the story of O. M. Oleson—her great-grand-uncle—and his contributions to the politics and culture of two nations. It is an immigrant's tale, an exploration of Norwegian-American life, and the story of music's importance to a community and people.

About the Author Ane-Charlotte Five Aarset is a journalist and author in Norway. Her book *Skyttergeneralen* (The Marksman General) earned her Freelance Journalist of the Year honors in Norway in 2005. She is also the author of *Kavaleristen* (The Cavalryman).