

FADER BERGSTRÖM, FINGRA DIN OBOE — EPISTEL NR 16
FATHER BERGSTRÖM, FINGER YOUR OBOE — EPISTLE NB 16

by Carl Michael Bellman

1.Fader Bergström, fingra din oboe, blås! Knäpp upp ditt krås!
1.Father Bergström, finger your oboe, blow! Unbutton your frill!

Håll nattrocken öppen, så ser man: va ba? Skinnböxorna.
Keep the dressing-gown open, then you'll see: well, what? The leather breeches.

Hatten på; blås nu då!
Put on your hat; well, blow now!

Älskelige bröder, tagen nu i ring och lät oss alla dansa kring!
Dear brothers, stand in a ring, and let us all dance around!

2.Si där springer löparn på backen,
2.See: the runner hurries up the hillside,

si där; ölstopet bär.
well, look; (he) carries the ale-stoup.

Si det gröna glaset sin sköna han ger; stolt kavaljer!
See: he gives the green glass to his lady-love; (he is a) proud cavalier!

Han ibland kysser hand.
Sometimes he kisses (her) hand.

Älskelige bröder, dansa allihop och lät oss tömma våra stop!
Dear brothers, dance, all of you, and let us empty our beakers!

3.Ack, si Ormens pigor, si Cajsa,
3.Oh! see (the tavern) "Ormen's maids"; watch Cajsa,

blås bra! Si kjortlarna;
(and) blow well! See those skirts;

vita klackar, gossar, och målade skor! Balen blir stor.
white shoe-heels, lads, and painted shoes! The ball will be great.

Nu på bal snörd och smal!
Now, at the ball, laced up and slender!

Kära bröder, slå nu alla fenstren opp! Hej, liv och mandom i vår tropp!
Dear brothers, now open all the windows! Ho, life and bravery in our troop!

4.Hårfrisörn ur dansen, och löparn ska in.
4.The hair-dresser (should) exit the dance, and the runner (should) enter it.

Oboe fin, blås nu pianissimo! Ack, sicken en: med vita ben,
(What a) nice oboe, now blow pianissimo! Oh, what a character: with white legs,

krummar sig kvick och vig.
(he) twists and turns, swift and lithe.

Klappa löparn ut ur dansen, där han går,
Clap out the runner from the dance, where he is striding,

och hårfrisörn ska in. Gutår!
and let in the hair-dresser. Cheers!

5.Hurra, kamrater! allt andas i fröjd! Djuphet och höjd,
5.Hurrah, friends! Everything radiates joy! Depth and height,
göken uti toppen och löjan vid strand;
the cuckoo in the (tree-)top and the bleak(-fish) by the shore;
myran i sand. Liksom vi. Spela ni;
The ant in its sand. Likewise, we. You (there), play;
spela hoboister! gunga, tak och golv!
play, oboists! quake, ceiling and floor!
vad slår nu klockan? Hon slår tolv.
what time it is? It's twelve o'clock (in the night).

Translation by Eva Toller, 2009