



**A Greeting  
from the President of Iceland  
Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson**

Iceland's medieval sagas often tell of young men and women who left their native haunts and set off in quest of adventures and renown in distant countries. Voyages of this kind were in keeping with the message of The Sayings of the High One and other ancient poetry, that it is healthy for all people to look beyond the mountains and ocean on the horizon, and discover the ways and customs of others.

It is a gratifying testimony to constructive work in bringing up young people that Selfoss Church Youth Choir is now following in the footsteps of the saga heroes and setting off for America. Their concert tour begins at the Library of Congress, where a major exhibition is being held in tribute to the Icelandic heritage of storytelling and literature, and to commemorate the bold explorers who, a thousand years ago, braved the ocean to make new homes for themselves in the continent which would later be given the name America.

At Christmas for the past two years, my family has celebrated the birth of our Savior at the beautiful church in Selfoss in south Iceland, and delighted in the music and song performed there.

I also cherish memories from my visits to the Library of Congress and sincerely welcome the fact that these two institutions, the National Church of Iceland and the greatest library in the USA, should forge bonds between themselves through the singing of young people.

I wish Selfoss Church Youth Choir every success on their tour of US cities and hope that friends of Iceland in the New World will enjoy listening to these young Icelandic visitors.