ABSTRACT

Nu så ska du få höra: Svenska musikfonogram för barn 1904–1980

Kajsa Paulsson, Göteborg University, Department of Culture, Aesthetics and Media
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children's recordings, repertoire, musical style, Sweden.

This study concerns Swedish music phonograms for children issued in the period
1904-80. By way of archive studies information has been gathered about which
recordings have been issued on the Swedish market. In order to obtain complemen-
tary information about these recordings, composition processes, arrangement pro-
cedures and the practices in the recording studio, interviews have been
undertaken with a selection of singers, composers and producers who have taken
part in this development.

With the introduction of electric recording technology during the 1920s the
gramophone industry, including children's records, expanded. After World War II,
new tendencies within children's literature could be noticed, as authors formulated
new views on children and children's culture. During the 1940s and 1950s older
material, so-called 'classical children's songs', was still often recorded. However,
in this period newly composed songs in styles connected with dance and
entertainment music were also featured on phonograms for children.

The music on children's records is discussed with a focus on recordings from
the period 1945-80. Among the characteristic traits of these recordings is a certain
kind of plainness and legibility, both regarding vocal presentation and instrumental
accompaniment, as well as a prominent role played by the human voice. There is
also a noticeable width of musical styles presented on recordings for children.

The production of records for children is connected to more or less widespread
ideas on childhood and on the position of children in society, ideas which have
changed over time. Here children's records are viewed within a field combining
aspects of music, media and childhood.