

## Abstract

This study deals with student singing in Finland during the period of a hundred years, when the country, as a Grand Duchy, was a part of Russia. This, and the societal developments of a country slowly changing from a rural to an urban society, had a clear impact on the life and on the thoughts of the students. The identity of the students was to change from the Prussian *Burschenschaft ideal* of the early 19th century to different regional, national and gender based identities at the beginning of the 20th century.

Using the theories of identity and the public sphere formulated by Jürgen Habermas, the aim of the dissertation is to show how and why these identities were formed throughout the century and how significant they were regarding the way of performance for the student singing (unison as well as male voice singing in four parts and mixed choir), but also regarding choice of repertory. For this reason, the investigation starts up with a theoretical and a historical discussion as to student identity. Other important traits in the historical discussion are specialization and professionalization in the university and the society, and, with a particular consequence for the student singing, not in the least in the cultural life. The change of repertory during these hundred years is represented by some chosen songs, frequent at different times, which are analysed against the background of the historical discussion.

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Göteborg University, Department of Musicology  
Box 200, SE-405 30 Göteborg, Sweden  
Phone: +46-31 773 40 83, Fax: +46-31 773 40 89