

## ABSTRACT

### **Bland polskor, gånglåtar och valser. Hallands spelmansförbund och den halländska folkmusiken**

Doctoral dissertation in Swedish with English summary, 326 pages.

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*Skrifter från Institutionen för musikvetenskap, Göteborgs universitet nr 79, 2004*

*(Publications from the Department of Musicology, Göteborg University, No. 79, 2004)*

*Key words:* county, ethnomusicology, fiddle music, folk music, Halland, Hallands spelmansförbund, organisation, repertoire, Sweden.

ISBN 91 85974 76-5

ISSN 1650-9285

In 1931, *Hallands spelmansförbund* (The Fiddlers' Association of Halland) was started. The aim of the association was to preserve and support the folk music from the county of Halland, situated on the Swedish west-coast south of Göteborg. The association was one of several fiddlers' associations founded around 1930 in Sweden. They were part of *spelmansrörelsen* (the fiddlers' movement), an overarching concept for the organisation of folk fiddlers and dancers combined with the idea of both preserving the old heritage and an ambition to use it in new ways, e.g. providing Swedish composers with national material as a source for their compositions.

The fiddlers' movement is usually said to have started in 1906, when the first competition for Swedish fiddlers was held in Dalarna. Around 1930, the movement entered a new phase when it assumed a more formal and definite shape, e.g. through the formation of fiddlers' associations. They all had the common interest to support the folk music traditions of the different regions that they represented. The aim of this thesis is to study how this was done and what consequences this had on the repertoire by making a case study on the history of the Fiddlers' Association of Halland.

During the first fifty years from 1931 when the association was started until 1980, efforts were made by 'ideologists' in the association to support the folk music of Halland and to increase the number of tunes from Halland in the repertoire of its members. This was done by introducing new tunes as part of a common repertoire, playing them at meetings and by encouraging the members in different ways to play folk music from their county. The association also presented the folk music of Halland to non-members such as politicians through concerts, the production of an LP etc.

The idea of what kind of repertoire that was regarded as 'good' folk music was derived from the ideology of the fiddlers' movement. This approach as to what was considered 'pure' folk music was applied on the already existing repertoire of folk music in Halland. One effect of this was that tunes that were regarded as too modern, e.g. polkas, did not become part of the repertoire that the association presented as the folk music of Halland, even though these tunes were a major part of the repertoire played before 1931.

What could be regarded as the folk music of Halland or not, was never discussed by the association. On the contrary, it appears that they took this for granted. Using the county of Halland as a model for one traditional folk music area is doubtful. It is more correct to see it in terms of smaller areas in Halland and also over the borders to the neighbouring counties. Neither did the members of the association discuss their use of the concept of folk music. So both the concept in connection with traditional folk music areas, and the concept of folk music, were used by the association as something obvious. But it can be argued that the association defined the concepts by means of their practice in defining what was the folk music of Halland.