



PERMANENT SECRETARY

Unesco Intergovernmental Committee
Paris

Stockholm, 2023-02-21
Dnr 23013

The Royal Swedish Academy of Music supports the Swedish and Norwegian nomination of Summer farming at *fäbod* and *seter* - knowledge, traditions, and practices related to grazing of outlying lands and artisan food production to the Unesco representative list of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity.

Alongside the practical competence in handling the livestock on the farmstead, a characteristic musical culture has developed over a long time within farmstead farming: musical instruments such as bells and cow horns have traditionally been used both as work tools in farmstead farming and as musical instruments for pleasure and artistic expression. The design of the Scandinavian cow horn with finger holes, which enables advanced melodic playing of *herding songs*, is not seen anywhere else. The music culture also includes the lure call, where the voice is used as a means of communication between animals and humans and between humans. A specific form of call including melodic loops in a high position, colloquially called *kulning*, is a vocal expression primarily linked to the possibilities of the female voice that developed within the *fäbod* culture in Scandinavia. Its improvisational form is structured in mostly wordless phrases, with distinctive tonality. *Kulning* has developed in the context of *fäbod* farming, but today is also a vocal expression outside the *fäbod*. *Kulning* sounds today in many different musical contexts, but the context of the *fäbod* farm enables the survival and development of the *fäbod* music culture in our contemporary society and creates a cultural anchoring for the musical expression that can inspire professional singers today to learn the unique way of using the voice.

In a musical perspective of particular importance to the Royal Swedish Academy of Music is the intangible value that it represents as a musical cultural heritage, an original use of voice and musical form in calling and highlights the female voice as a fundamental means of communication between people and between people and animals and for musical expression.



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Fäbodbruk's musical culture is both in a historical perspective and today a source of musical development both in its own form and for a variety of musical expressions in Sweden and internationally. The Academy recently arranged seminars on *kulning* and folk music related to *fäbod* culture, and counts experts on *kulning* among its distinguished members. It arranges annual examinations on a national level (Masters students) in folk music and awards generous stipends in support of continued studies. Stipends for research in folk music including *kulning*, herding calls etc are also awarded.

On behalf of the Royal Swedish Academy of Music,

Fredrik Wetterqvist
Permanent Secretary/CEO