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Singing Maps: Sustaining Nordic singing traditions through online networks

Short description / Abstract:

Despite decades of advocacy in the Nordic region, indigenous and other traditional vocal musics remain almost entirely absent from compulsory music education and teacher training in countries such as Sweden and Norway (Hirvasvuopio, 2024; Johnson, 2021). Many of these traditions are endangered. The aim of the Singing Maps Nordic Research Hub (SMNR-Hub) is to support Nordic inter-institutional collaboration on research, innovation and teacher education to sustain and promote indigenous and traditional Nordic singing practices through music education. The SMNR-Hub builds on the established trans-Nordic Singing Maps research network which was developed through the NORDFORSK Exploratory Workshops program (2023-2024) to include researchers, tradition bearers and music educators from across the Nordic region. The research and development work performed by the SMNR- Hub aims to establish a sustainable framework for the continued development, curation and maintenance of the Singing Maps Open Online Learning Community (OOC) website for learning traditional and indigenous singing. This first-of-its-kind learning resource was developed by the Singing Maps Exploratory Workshop partners to serve as a shared digital platform for inter-institutional collaboration and harmonization of teacher education in traditional musics as a basis for long-term strategic alliances between Higher Education institutions across the North. In this presentation, the Singing Map digital community platform will be presented and discussed. The question of how music education can sustain traditional musics will be considered in light of recent international initiatives and current research projects within the Singing Map network. Aims and methods from the ongoing Research Council of Norway-financed Sápmi Singing Maps research initiative (2025-2029) will be outlined.

<https://www.hvl.no/en/research/project/singing-maps/>