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**Women and gender relations
in the record industry in Croatia
from 1927 to the end of the 1950s**

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Edison Bell Penkala
1927–1938–1944
c. 1,200 records



Elektroton
1938–1945–1947
c. 600 records



Jugoton
1947–
c. 900 shellac records



women in the three companies

industry personnel:

secretaries

accountants

controllers of final products

manual workers

musicians:

singers

women singers in EBP production

vs. their representation in *Leksikon jugoslavenske muzike* (1984)

- cultural capital of distinguished opera and concert singers
- transnational popular music, jazz bands, and Zagreb
- trans-ethnic folk music, Gypsy/Roma bands, and Belgrade
- minority and marginality

Cultural capital of distinguished opera and concert singers

Artist, residence	Records	Repertoire for EBP	Presence and desc. in LJM
Ksenija Rogovska-Hrستیć, Bg	6	opera	opera singer
Zlata Gjurgjenac-Gavella, Zg	5	opera	opera singer
Zdenka Zikova, Zg	3	opera	opera singer
Tinka Wesel-Polla, Zg	2	opera	opera singer
Lucija Ožegović, Zg	1	opera	opera singer
Ivanka Ribič, Lj	1	opera	opera singer
Pavla Lovše, Lj	3	Slovenian folk, arranged	opera singer
Vilma Thierry, Lj	1	Slovenian folk, arr.	opera singer
Maja Strozzi-Pečić, Zg	2	Bosnian folk, arr.	opera & conc. singer
Ančica Mitrović, Zg/Germ	1	Bosnian folk, arr.	opera singer
Miroslava Binički, Bg	4	Serbian & Maced. folk, arr.	opera & conc. singer
Marta Pospišil-Griff, Zg	6	opera, popular and/or folk tunes?	opera singer
Marija Milkov Zolotović, Sof	5	opera, Maced. & Bulg. folk, arr.	–

Transnational popular music (TPM), jazz bands, and Zagreb

Artist, residence	Records	Repertoire for EBP	Presence and desc. in LJM
Marica Lubej, Zg	3+5	operetta (a part of TPM)	operetta singer
Mila Mosinger-Popović, Zg	3	operetta (a part of TPM)	operetta singer
Irma Pollak, Zg	2	operetta (a part of TPM)	operetta singer
Sandica Reiss, Zg	1	operetta (a part of TPM)	–
Margita Dubajić, Zg	12+5	TPM	–
Nada Auer, Zg	10	TPM	opera singer
Vera Misita, Zg	3	TPM	opera & operetta sing.
Evka Mikulić, Bg	4	TPM	–

Trans-ethnic Yugoslav folk music (TYFM), Gypsy/Roma bands, and Belgrade

Artist, residence	Records	Repertoire for EBP	Presence and desc. in LJM
Žanka Stokić, Bg	7	TYFM, show w. sing., cabar.	—
Teodora Arsenović, Bg	5	TYFM, show w. sing., cabar.	opera sing. & actress
Sofka Nikolić, Bg	10	TYFM	—
Ruža Denić, Bg	5	TYFM	—
Seka Mihajlović-Romšak, Šab	4	TYFM	—
Vera Krišćinska, Bg	3	TYFM	—
Olga Ilić, Bg	2	TYFM	—
Cvetanka Lazarević, Bg	1	TYFM	—
Others			
Pipa Arco, Lj	1	Slovenian folk	—
Oblak sisters, Zg	5	Croat., Sloven. & Maced. folk	—
Stella Bahritje Kantosi	7	Turkish music	—
Maria Sandau	4	Jewish music	—
Alla Bajanova	3	Russian music	—
Katarina Mišicka/Mišecka	2	Russian music	—
Ilona Dajbukát	1	Hungarian music	—

Sofka Nikolić (1907–1982)

Sagradit ću šajku
od suvoga kedra,
katarku ću od šimšira,
a svilena jedra;
katarku ću od šimšira,
a svilena jedra.



Suzama ću šajki
da izvezem ime,
što ih ronim kad nikada niko ne vidi me.

Rough translation: I shall build a boat
from choice woods and sails of pure silk.
I shall paint its name by my own tears.

(Recording for Edison Bell Penkala in 1928 or 1929?;
record deposited in the City Museum in Sisak)



- minority position of prominent EBP artists (Sofka Nikolić, Roma bands, Margita Dubajić, harpist Lujza Holubova, violinist Marijana Schön)
- marginality of recording industry in LJM

Heda Piliš (1925–2015)

- c. 50 songs: lyrics, translations and adaptations
- c. 100 songs: music
- c. 10 songs: lyrics and music

transnational popular music

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music for regional festivals of *zabavna* music
music for children's festivals of *zabavna* music



Kad bi me volio

Svi vele da jutros ... je svud, ali meni on se čini blijedi,
svi kliču da sunce proljetno sja, ali zašto ga ne spazih ja?
Kad bi me volio ti, kad bi me volio ti
u mojim očima tad bi čitao srca riječ.
Kad bi me volio ti, svi oni potajni sni
iz moga bića tad bi prešli u svijet.

Ko sunce kad probudi sve živo na zemlji toj
već sutra moj će plamen probudit možda tvoj.
I kako neizmjereno lijep za nas će postati svijet
u času tom kad bi me volio ti.

Rough translation: Everyone says it's nice
this morning, but it doesn't seem so to me.
If you loved me, everything would become
immensely beautiful.

(recording for Jugoton in 1955; record deposited in
the City Museum in Sisak)

