

IT'S SOUNDING LIGHT AND YUGOSLAV:
CONTRIBUTIONS BY RECORDING
RESEARCHERS TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF
GENESIS OF *ZABAVNA* MUSIC

Marija Maglov, PhD (Institute of Musicology SASA, Belgrade)
and Jelka Vukobratović, PhD (Academy of Music, Zagreb)

How Does “Your“ Music Sound? Belonging, Communities, and Identities in Popular Music
across Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.
University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, November 9-10, 2023.

Vojin Popović: Daleka mesta (Jugodisk)



You Tube: MrSuanPan

Jugodisk 00198

Music by: Kramer;

Svira: Sestet Spase Milutinovića;
“lagani vals” (“slow waltz”)

Jugoton C-6284, mtx 680, 1954 y

Vojin Popović

uz ansambl Spase Milutinovića

Far away places by: Alex Charles Kramer,
text (SH) by: Vojin Popović

Why 1950s discography?

- Sound traces on 78 rpm
- Forgotten singers, musicians, conductors, composers, etc.
- Prehistory of „zabavna“ music
- Transitional period of domestication of Western music
- Recorded repertoire = radio repertoire = dance parties repertoire

The sound of zabavna music on Yugoslav 1950s records

- 1949: Jugoton
- Cca 1951: Jugodisk
- Dance repertoire (foxtrot, slow fox, English waltz, or Latin dances tango, beguine, rumba, cha-cha-cha)

Vojin Popović

In Petar Luković, *Bolja prošlost: prizori iz muzičkog života Jugoslavije*,
Beograd: Mladost, 1989, 12 (photo fragment)



Vojin Popović: Doviđenja Rijeko (Jugoton)



You Tube: MrSuanPan

Jugoton C-6401, mtx 920, 1955
Zabavni orkestar Radio Beograda
Conductor: Ilija Genić
Author: Dragomir Ristić

Towards domestic product

- Ilija Genić and other entertainment orchestras and conductors in later years of zabavna music festivals
- Dances
- Lyricism

Conclusion

- Sounding light: „sweet“ jazz, light entertainment arrangements, sentimental lyricism,
- Sounding Yugoslav: mediation of political inclination towards presenting Western influences as somehow domestically grown

Thank you!

Literature (selection)

- Buhin, Anita, *Yugoslav Socialism “Flavoured with Sea, Flavoured with Salt”: Mediterraneanization of Yugoslav Popular Culture in the 1950s and 1960s under Italian Influence*, Zagreb: Srednja Europa, 2022.
- Vuletić, Dean, *Yugoslav Communism and the Power of Popular Music*, PhD dissertation, New York: Columbia University, 2010.
- Scott, Derek B., “Other Mainstreams: light music and easy listening, 1920-70”, In Nicholas Cook and Anthony Pople (eds), *The Cambridge History of Twentieth-Century Music*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004, 307–335.
- Hercigonja, Nikola, In: „Zapisnik sa sastanka sa predstavnicima kompozitora ozbiljne muzike”, AY Fond 142, 1956.
- Duda, Igor, *U potrazi za blagostanjem: o povijesti dokolice i potrošačkog društva u Hrvatskoj 1950-ih i 1960-ih*. Zagreb: Srednja Europa, 2005.
- Kocić, Ljubomir i Miljković, Ljubinko., „Tragovima sazvučja muzike“, In Milan Bulatović et al. *Ovde Radio-Beograd: zbornik povodom pedesetogodišnjice*, Beograd: Radio-Beograd, 1979. 103–128.
- Lučić-Todosić, Ivana, *Od trokinga do tvista: Igranke u Beogradu 1945-1963*, Beograd: Srpski genealoški centar, 2002.
- Beard, Danijela Š. and Ljerka V. Rasmussen, *Made in Yugoslavia: Studies in Popular Music*, New York and London: Routledge, 2020.
- Luković, Petar, *Bolja prošlost: prizori iz muzičkog života Jugoslavije*, Beograd: Mladost, 1989.