This study examines the impact that the Tapiola choir has had on its singers under its four decades. This pedagogical meaning was studied through the former singers of the Tapiola choir, their life choices and their choice of profession. The purpose of this study was to find out how the Tapiola choir has influenced its singers in the long run – their individuality and personality as well as their world view.

The target group of this research were all the former members of the Tapiola choir. Altogether 400 individuals have sung in the Tapiola choir. One hundred of them could be reached and 87 of them answered the enquiry. The enquiry was divided into the following sections: 1) background, 2) years in the choir, 3) hobbies, 4) statements, 5) complete the sentences and 6) with your own words. The main emphasis in this enquiry was on the 50 statements, which were used to study the respondents’ attitudes towards the choir as a hobby, the choir’s working methods and music education. Through the analysis of this section the researcher was able to generalize the impacts that Tapiola choir has had on its singers.

The theoretical base of this study examines the subtext of musicality and musical development as well as music as a hobby. Communal music hobbies and the requirements for a functioning music community were also accentuated. This was connected to my hypothesis of an educative music community. A music community can’t be truly educative if its members are unable to collaborate in different situations of practicing and performing.

The research results support my hypothesis of the educativeness of a children’s choir. The former choristers are socially skilled and self-confident individuals, who are well prepared for the challenges in life. In the Tapiola choir every member is a responsible individual as well as an important part of the whole. The different tasks given in the choir teach the choristers to trust their own skills. Working in a group for its part develops social skills. Many of the respondents also felt that singing in the Tapiola choir was more than a hobby, almost like a way of life. Many of them impress that they would be totally different persons without this period in their life.

Avainsanat - Nyckelord
Lapsikuoro, musiikkikasvatus, elämänvalinnat, sosiaalinen sidosryhmä, yhteisöllinen musiikkiharrastus

Keywords
Children’s choir, music education, life choices, social interest group, communal music hobby

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