

Music on private occasions in Narva in the 17th century

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Abstract

Amongst the private occasions wedding as the most profitable revenue item was most important for musicians. In Narva, music on weddings was regularised by the Swedish wedding ordinance of 1664 and the Swedish church ordinance of 1687. The wedding ordinance forbade music at engagement and before the wedding in general, determined musical details at the marriage ceremony as well as at the wedding feast; the salary and number of permitted musicians depended on the social rank of bridal couple. Information about repertory or instruments in use can be derived from other sources like letters or contracts of employment of musicians. In the paper, the mentioned sources are examined for information about music at weddings and other private occasions. Since privileges of musicians to play on the weddings are referred to just cursorily in the sources, conflicts between musicians were frequent in this regard. Division of the citizenship in the Swedish and the German parish was another source of conflicts since musicians active at different parishes competed with each other.