Contemporary Sports Radio Music – An Examination of Formats and Functions

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This subproject examines music on contemporary sports radio illustrated by the program “Sport på 3’eren” on P3 (DR). Relations between music and sports have a long and varied history, and this subproject focusses on a particular aspect of this relationship, i.e., the ways in which music influences the structure and significance of a sports radio program as well as the ways in which a sports program influences the structure and significance of the music presented. The specific research questions include: What kinds of music appear when and where, in what relation to other sounds, presented and commented on in which ways by whom, and with what significance?

The sample to be examined consists of all issues of “Sport på 3’eren” broadcast during the month of April, 2014. The particular month of April has been chosen because the program during this month includes a rich diversity of sports, e.g., some of the most popular indoor as well as outdoor sports in Denmark, i.e., handball, ice hockey, and football. Based on a textual examination of all instances and pertinent variations of music, the subproject will 1) produce a sketch for a classification of musical formats and functions in sports radio, 2) discuss possible tendencies as regards the distribution of the identified formats and functions, and 3) illustrate the formats and functions via a close textual analysis of a particularly illustrative issue of “Sport på 3’eren”.

Apart from developing a sketch for a classification of musical formats and functions on contemporary sports radio, the subproject will provide a cursory examination of the extent to which the classification can apply to other radio genres, i.e., a synchronic examination, and the extent to which the classification can apply to previous formats of sports radio, i.e., a diachronic examination. To this end, an issue of “P4 Eftermiddag” on P4 (DR) from April, 2014 and a previous issue of “Sport på 3’eren” have been chosen for a comparative analysis.