

Darius Kučinskas

Kaunas University of Technology

Pianola records of Lithuanian music and their spread in the United States of America

The article examines a unique niche of Lithuanian discography – pianola records. The study also analyses a modernized piano-pianola construction, which reached its peak in the beginning of the XX century, as well as manufacturing technology of pianola records and the reasons why Lithuanian rolls for pianola were created. Moreover, the article presents the first promoters, authors, publishers, and arrangers of such records. Musical expression possibilities in Lithuanian community in the USA at that time and the formation of the need for popular pianola music are considered with emphasis on the contribution by the first publishers: Augustas Antpusaitis, Jonas Žemaitis and Vincas Nickus.

Keywords: pianola rolls, Lithuanian music, music records, Lithuanian archives