

## SUMMARY

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*What is a children's song? Musical and educational dilemmas: a composer's experience.*

The children's song has until recently been a completely ignored musical genre. Generally speaking, to be functional, music education can be regarded from two different points of view: either as "education with music" or "education for music." The distinct value of children's songs in music education requires a more precise definition of the musical characteristics and ways of balancing musical components. The best examples are no doubt children's songs by great composers, which require higher performing standards. Excessive use of folk songs, which represents the other extreme, may raise some problems. From P. Bergamo's composing experience, the children's song needs to be considered from new angles: one of these requires distinguishing between songs for singing and songs for listening, for children of different age, but one must also be wary of musical "formulas", which are mistakenly thought to belong only to the children's musical expression. Bergamo's most successful children's song *Avanture maloga Juju* (*The Adventures of little Juju*), is a typical example of a good balance achieved between music and text, which is the most important feature of children's songs.