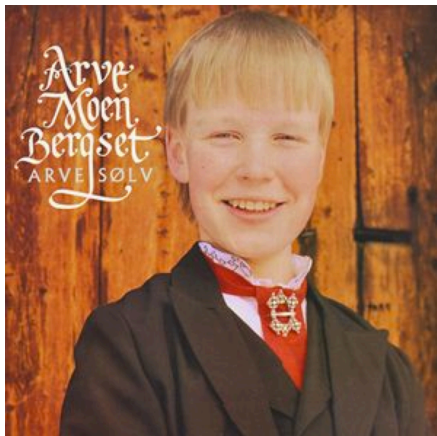


Religious folk songs

Of the different vocal genres within folk music, it is the religious folk songs that are numerically the richest in Norwegian folk music archives. This is connected not least of all with the fact that, as early as the 1840s, Ludvig M. Lindeman began a systematic collection in the form of notation, something that was later continued by several collectors. Lindeman traveled far and wide, and he could sit in church and notate the hymns in the middle of the service. These notations are exceedingly important for Norwegians' knowledge of the old vocal traditions.

Whilst the melodies of the religious folk songs vary from area to area, the words are more often than not taken from known hymn-writers such as Kingo, Brorson or Petter Dass, and are often to be found in hymnals. The words are therefore in Danish-Norwegian. Of the hymn-writers who wrote in Norwegian or translated hymns to Nynorsk, Elias Blix and Anders Hovden were important.

There are examples of melodies which were originally written by known composers, which were orally transmitted for several generations, with added changes – and finally came to be considered as folk songs.



Arve Moen Bergset, Telemark



CD 1 – 22 Arve Moen Bergset, sang: *Syng i stille morgonstunder*, religiøs folketone, tekst: Elias Blix, etter Ellen Nordstoga og Sondre Bratland (Telemark)