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Agnetha and Björn meet for the first time

Agnetha's first visit to Berlin was curtailed by commitments in Sweden, the most time-consuming of which was a *folkpark* tour together with Enghardt's. On Thursday, May 23, 1968, the band had an engagement in a small place called Målilla in Småland. Although Agnetha's newfound status as a singing star meant that she received special billing – “Enghardt's with Agnetha Fältskog” – the act was still regarded as a dance band. They were expected to provide entertainment for several hours, as opposed to being afforded the status of a star attraction with a 30-minute stage show.

On that particular early summer night, it was the ever-popular Hootenanny Singers who were the stars at Målilla Sports Park. Agnetha had been in the audience when the group performed in Huskvarna a few years earlier. “All the girls were looking at Björn. My friends said, ‘Isn't he cute?’ But I said that Johan Karlberg was the cutest. I knew that in reality I liked Björn the most – I just wanted to stand apart from my friends.”

Björn was delighted to finally meet the pretty blonde girl he'd seen on television; he later claimed he had fallen in love with her the first time he heard her sing. Since then she'd had a number one hit on the sales chart, an accomplishment that had eluded even the Hootenanny Singers. When Enghardt's arrived to the park much later than scheduled, this first meeting between Björn and Agnetha didn't go well. With no live entertainment at all in the park, the Hootenanny Singers had to start their performance earlier than their 9.30 star spot. “They were really angry that we'd arrived late – our bus had broken down – and I was happy that they'd stepped in for us,” recalled Agnetha.

The Hootenanny Singers were pretty disparaging towards Agnetha and her band. “We felt that we were the artists, and they were just a dance band who were in the way. We wanted to do our show and then get the hell out of there,” says Berka Bergkvist. “As I recall, Agnetha came into our dressing room and we were joking pretty cruelly with her: ‘What are you doing here? Get out, dance band singer!’”

Despite the insensitive jokes, Björn was mesmerised by Agnetha. “He was very determined: ‘She's the right girl for me, I'm really going to work on this’,” says Hansi Schwarz. “He grabbed the opportunity to have a good talk with her.”

Eyewitnesses in the Enghardt's camp recall that Agnetha was less than impressed by Björn and the Hootenanny Singers at the time, finding him sycophantic and the band pompous. Agnetha's own memories of Björn's attempts to chat her up are a bit rosier. “I was in seventh heaven. I had seen Björn several times on television and had a small crush on him.” At the time, Björn had just released his first solo single, ‘Raring’, a cover of the Bobby Goldsboro hit ‘Honey’. Agnetha asked Björn to send her a copy of the single. “The next day we went to a record shop and bought the single, and then we mailed it to her,” recalls Berka. Björn had not only signed the single sleeve but also enclosed a letter, asking to see her again. “We went to see her perform later on, just him and me. It was all very hush-hush.”