

Little Gerhard

Karl-Gerhard Lundkvist (17 May 1934 – 14 July 2026), known under his stage name **Little Gerhard**, was a Swedish singer and rock musician. He had music hits between 1958 and the mid-1960s with "Buona Sera", "What You've Done to Me", and "Den siste mohikanen".^[1]

Early life and career

Karl-Gerhard Lundkvist was born on 17 May 1934 in Tillberga, Sweden.^[2] In his early years he boarded a ship and became a sailor. He made his stage debut in 1952 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, at the nightclub "Trocadero".^[3] At that time he played guitar and the accordion.^{[2][4]}

After ending his career as a sailor he moved to Stockholm, where he entered several amateur singing competitions, and he later saw success as a rock musician.^[5] His first music group was called Halen, which he performed with at New Year's Eve 1957.^[6] Via this concert he signed with the record label Karusell. He released his first music album in 1958, called *Little Gerhard*; the song "What You've Done to Me" became his first hit.^[7] Already in March of the same year he was named "Sweden's rock music king", and in August that year he also was named "the rock music king of the Nordics".^{[8][9]} He made his film debut in the 1958 film *Det svänger på slottet*.^[10]

His third music album became, at its release in 1958, the best-selling music album within Swedish rock 'n' roll during the 1950s, and Little Gerhard's Gold certified record.^[11] He and his band, the G-men, toured for five years each summer starting in 1959.^[12]

While touring in West Germany in 1959 he got to meet Elvis Presley, who was stationed for military duty in the country at that time. Little Gerhard's manager had sent his recordings to Presley, who agreed to meet him, and praised his music single "No Wedding Today".^[13] Elvis and Little Gerhard also planned to attend a concert in Frankfurt together, but Presley's commanding officer in the army denied him leave to attend.^[14]

In 1961, he started to sing in Swedish, his native tongue, now under the artist name Little Gerhard for the first time.^[15] His song "Blommor och bin" charted on the Svensktoppen list.^[16] He also did recordings in West Germany and sang in German.^[17]

Little Gerhard



Little Gerhard in Helsingborg, 1959

Background information

Also known as	Little Gerhard
Born	Karl-Gerhard Lundkvist 17 May 1934 <u>Västerås</u>, Sweden
Died	14 July 2026 (aged 92)
Occupation	Singer
Spouse	Theptong Lundkvist (m., 2012)

By the late 1960s, he focused on his career as a songwriter and producer.^[18] He composed and produced the song "Ska vi plocka körsbär i min trädgård?", performed by Ann-Christine Bärnsten in Melodifestivalen 1975.^{[19][20]} He participated in Melodifestivalen 1982 broadcast on SVT with the song "Hand i hand med dig" in a duet with singer Yvonne Olsson.^[21]

Personal life and death

Gerhard married his wife Theptong Lundkvist in 2012.^[22] He died on 14 July 2026, at the age of 92.^[22]



Little Gerhard in Kungsträdgården
2009

Filmography

- 1958 – *Det svänger på slottet*^[10]
- 1958 – *Åsa-Nisse in Military Uniform*^[23]

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