

Music of the Roms in the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County and the Possibilities of Using Music of the Romani in the Pedagogical Process in Croatia

The Roms are the most numerous minority group in Europe, a people without a parent state, and potentially an important factor in determining cultural policies and in the implementation of the educational process in the context of national states. On the territory of today's Republic of Croatia, they have been present for more than seven centuries. For the time being, the Roms in the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County are not encompassed by systematic research and there is indeed a need for a well-established scholarly knowledge about this segment of the population.

Ethnomusicology as a scholarly field that explores music in the context of different socio-cultural factors allows not only the broadening and deepening of knowledge, but also the application of the results with the aim of improving the existing situation. The dissertation, based on research of demographic, cultural and especially musical processes in research field, especially in the cities of Rijeka, Delnice, Crikvenica and Novi Vinodolski, provides a profound insight into the musical life of the Roms and develops an experimental program that should contribute to a better understanding and coexistence of the bearers of different identities in the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County and in Croatia in general.

The dissertation is the result of a research effort to explore the music world of the Roms people in the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County in Croatia and to implement the results to improve the quality of inter-ethnic communication and the pedagogical process. In accordance with ethnomusicological theory and practice that promote scholarly interest for a comprehensive phenomenological study of music in the relevant socio-cultural contexts, a detailed presentation of the position of the Roms community in the county and its dynamic reflection in music was explored from different points of view. Particular attention was paid to the research of regional culture and processes, in which the Roms actively participate, as well as to analyses of musical products (song, instrumental music, dance), with the help of which it was possible to identify and explain specific musical parameters. The dissertation also seeks to answer the question of the application of knowledge and the understanding of the material collected during field-work and while studying archives, how to improve the education and training of Roms children in the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County through ethnomusicological research and pedagogical thinking and how to incorporate the music of the Roms people into the educational process. Following the inspiration of the experimental project The

Resonant Community, successfully conducted in Norway between 1989 and 1992, a project titled The possibilities of Using the Music of the Roms in the Pedagogical Process in Croatia was developed within the frame of this dissertation with the intention to bring together Roms and non-Roms children, their teachers, and family members.

The music of the Roms people could and should be introduced into the educational process, at least to a small and achievable degree, to improve the quality of communication between Roms and the rest of the population. The introduction of the music of the Roms people in teaching can be applied to other national minorities in the Republic of Croatia.

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