

"WE WILL SING WITH THE VOICE OF THE NIGHTINGALE"

CONCEPTIONS ON TRADITIONAL SINGING HELD BY PERFORMERS ON THE ISLAND OF KRK

SUMMARY

Traditional music of the Istrian coastal region has invoked considerable attention from researchers; particularly in the first half of the 20th century. While the majority endeavoured to link this musical system with that of Western Europe, a few held the view that it should be approached as an original utterance of the people creating and nurturing it.

Concentrating her attention on one of the musical localities of the Istrian coastal region - Punat, on the Island of Krk - the author continues along guidelines already marked out, studying conceptions held on traditional singing by the older generation of performers. On the basis of extensive terminological and musical material collected during the Eighties, she analyses in detail the views of the informants concerning singers, the manner of singing, and the songs, together with terms which bear witness to a complex process of change, and the disappearance of this world of musical expression. She perceives differences among the informants as to quality and quantity, partial inconsistency, brevity and unclear oral expression, and provides indicators for possible interpretation of these phenomena.

The author concludes that even in their present form, preserved musical conceptions speak of the existence formerly of a complete and developed system of comprehension among the members of the Punat community. Along with musical expression, conceptions held today also bear witness to an original traditional musical culture, which, precisely because of the inevitability of its disappearance, and the interesting material involved, deserves closer attention in the future.

(Translated by Nina H. Antoljak)