

CHANGES IN THE MUSICAL LIFE OF THE CROATIAN TOWNSHIP STINATZ (1979-1990) INFLUENCED BY THE PERSONALITY OF THE LOCAL PRIEST

SUMMARY

Stinjaki (Stinatz) is a small Croatian township in the Burgenland with about 1300 inhabitants. It is very well known for its special traditional Croatian character in both language and customs. The author got to know the township in 1978 when she started research on the singing traditions there. She went on recording events like weddings, informal gathering, liturgical events and so on, till 1990. So it is possible to give an account of changes in repertoire, style of performing and of changes of events in a natural setting over the last 11 years. The musical life of Stinatz was very much influenced by one personality: Mr. Branko Kornfeind, M. A., the priest of Stinatz since 1980. His activities have not concentrated on only church areas (which are not discussed in this paper), he is also a very able singer and musician. In 1979, he founded the Folklore-Ensemble "Stinjačko Kolo", he also began to perform dance music in the ensemble "Veseli Stinjaki", he composed a lot of wedding songs, and also published a collection of songs in their typical Stinatz-variants (only texts). Most of all he found a way to fill the children and the youth of Stinatz with enthusiasm for Croatian singing. Along with his musical activities goes the revalorization of Croatian language in Stinatz.

He represents musical tradition as well as innovation. There are approving as well as critical comments on his activities in Stinatz. The author wants to take into consideration the musical influence of Branko Kornfeind in Stinatz from three points of view:

- 1) his own point of view
- 2) the inhabitants' point of view (3 generations)
- 3) the ethnomusicologists point of view, based on recordings and their analytical evaluation, and on observations.