

SUMMARY

The Tamburitza Ensembles in Žrnovo During the Period Between the Two World Wars

The paper presents the results of research about activities of two tamburitza ensembles in Žrnovo on the island of Korcula in the period between the two world wars. The emergence of tamburitza ensembles in this rural community of Dalmatian islands is not an isolated or a unique phenomenon. Its origin is in the centers of tambura living found in the continental part of Croatia. A model of an amateur music ensemble developed in these areas during the 19th century and, in the second half of the 1880s it began to appear in Dalmatia where it soon turned into a mass phenomenon. Cultural societies, the Catholic Church and reading rooms had a crucial role in promoting this instrument in Dalmatia. There is no doubt that the introduction of tamburitza ensembles was of great importance to the musical culture of the population, but it was also politically motivated and closely related to the process of building the Croatian national identity. The ensembles from Žrnovo, with their musical, social and political characteristics fully fit into that model. Their work was formally organized, they had expert guidance and organizational structure, as well as purpose-set locations in which they held rehearsals and taught new members. They were numerically larger ensembles consisting of musically literate amateurs. Their activities were closely tied to the church and the village reading room. In the highly politicized environment they actively promoted their opposing political views. Performance frameworks in which they performed included religious ceremonies, secular parties and celebrations, dramatic staging and folkloric practices. Together with the church and the reading room they formed interrelated cultural focus points through which new information, practices and meanings of developments from urban areas flowed into the cultural space of the village. Both ensembles were extinguished prior to the Second World War. The tamburitza ensemble Saint Martin was founded in 1972 at the parish church and it is considered as a continuation of ensembles that existed between the two world wars. Thanks to them, today, at Christmas season in Žrnovo, one can hear a real musical rarity, which is an echo of the distant times of revival: Croatian folk Christmas songs acoustically attired in Farkas's tamburitzas.

Key words: Žrnovo, the tamburitza ensembles, *Jug*, *Jadranska vila*