

CROATIAN TAMBURA SOCIETY “ZVONIMIR” IN OSIJEK: ITS HISTORY, REPERTOIRE, PERFORMANCES

SUMMARY

Through two decades of its existence and devoted activity, the Croatian Tambura Society “Zvonimir”, founded in 1924, distinguished itself as a principal driving force in the development of tambura art music, as well as in enrichment the cultural and artistic life of the city of Osijek and beyond.

The Society`s work clearly reflected a strong pro-Croatian spirit, dedicated to the preservation of national consciousness and the promotion of newly composed tambura art music infused with elements of national folklore as a defining standard for the future. The guiding principles of the Society were to cultivate nobility, culture, and patriotism among the youth through musical engagement.

The individuals mentioned in this text – whose contributions left a lasting legacy (including the Rohrbacher brothers, Matija Bakša, Josip Dolanski, and others) – were the leaders of many unnamed tambura players who have since become part of “Zvonimir`s” history.

Through numerous performances and concert tours, which gradually reached ever more prominent stages, the Society`s activity culminated in 1937 with the founding of the Croatian Tambura Association — the central institution of Croatian tambura art music, that continues its mission to this day.

Following the outbreak of the Second World War and the departure of its leading figures, the Society discontinued its activities, leaving behind a profound legacy — the very artistic and ideological foundations upon which tambura music in Osijek continued to develop in the years that followed.

Keywords: Croatian Tambura Society “Zvonimir”, Osijek, Tambura music