

Krešimir Galin

TRANSFORMATIONS OF TRADITIONAL AEROPHONIC MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS FROM LAZ (NEAR MARIJA BISTRICA)

Summary

The paper investigates transformational processes that have affected aerophonic instruments in the village of Laz (in the northern Croatian province of Hrvatsko zagorje) and describes some other developments in musical instrument making. The author has examined numerous oral reports, written documents, and specimens of musical instruments in the village and in the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb in order to trace the development of musical instruments as far as the year 1875.

The author has further classified the instruments, made a periodization of transformational processes, and analyzed changes through which individual instruments have gone. The analysis covers such features as methods of manufacturing and sale, social functions, changes in playing techniques on the double flute, and structural changes in the musical repertory. The analysis also concentrates on a reduction in the acoustical and constructional components, instability of design, changes in manufacturing techniques and ornamentation, changes in shape and in the nomenclature of measurements, operations and component parts of musical instruments.

The author's conclusion is that all changes are linked to a radical change in the function the musical instruments have for their makers. The transformations consist mainly in the reduction of the acoustical and constructional components serving the old function and the flourishing of those elements which serve a new function, i. e. production of instruments as souvenirs for sale. Changes are gradual, and each new development sets in when a new technique is mastered. Some changes result from a combination of old and new techniques through a process of hybridization.

(Translated by Vladimir Ivir)