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TWO-PART SINGING OF EPIC NARRATIVE SONGS IN NORTHERN DALMATIA

SUMMARY

Two-part singing of epic narrative songs in Croatia is nearly unknown. This is the reason to present examples of such a kind of singing from Northern Dalmatia (Bukovica Area, Ravni kotari Area, and the isles near Zadar). Apart from performances in which texts of epic songs are sung in full, there are also performances in which only short, or somewhat longer, extracts of the texts of the epic songs are sung. These can be heard e.g. at weddings, as an accompaniment to the *kolo* dance, and at certain other occasions.

The chosen examples (see the attached music examples 1-6) were recorded by the author at the beginning of the Sixties. The tonal relations show that there are still some tunes in an old layer (in the so-called Narrow-Interval Style). The fact is, however, that this old layer of the tunes is retreating rather quickly before diatonic tone series, which are becoming more common. As regards rhythm and metre, both free and strict rhythm are found. A separate attached tabulated list presents the metro-rhythmical patterns of the first melody-sections in the melody-stanzas in order to draw attention to the unequal duration of the particular beats.