

Preserving a Nation Oversea: Galician Folklore Music and Identity in the Americas. Analysis of Galician Migrant Music in the Latin American Context

Authors : Santiago Guerra Fernández

Abstract : Abstract—This study is focused on exploring the conditions for the development of Galician music in the communities of Latin America after the massive arrival of Galician immigrants in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, fleeing from hunger and misery in Spain. Migration would be accentuated after 1936 with the arrival of refugees from the Spanish Civil War due to their Republican political militancy fleeing fascism. The aim of this paper is to investigate the part that miscegenation with other local musical traditions has played within Galician expat music, helping to understand the complexity of contemporary Galician identity. Through archival work, the focus is set on examining the different traditional dances (such as the 'muiñeira'), folk instruments (bagpipes, 'pandeireta'), and poetic forms ('cantiga', 'copla') that were exported to Argentina and Cuba. Although research about migrant Galician music has been conducted in Spanish scholarship, there is a gap in the English literature on the topic that this paper intends to fill in. The results show how these musical traditions have played an essential role in shaping the social life and customs of Galician emigrants. By virtue of its malleability and blending properties, music serves here as an indicator of social cohesion.

Keywords : folk, Galicia, migration, identity

Conference Title : ICME 2023 : International Conference on Musicology and Ethnomusicology

Conference Location : Amsterdam, Netherlands

Conference Dates : May 04-05, 2023