

Abstract

ESTONIAN AND FINNISH FOLK MUSIC FESTIVALS AS PART OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC REVIVAL

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Folk music festivals have played a significant role in the global traditional music revival since the 1960s until nowadays. Considering this, the presentation seeks to answer the following questions: How can contemporary Estonian and Finnish folk music festivals bring out and enhance the characteristics of local folk music? What part have Estonian and Finnish folk music festivals in traditional music revival movement? The research is based on the fieldwork conducted since 2004 at the Kaustinen Folk Music Festival (Fin. Kaustisen kansanmusiikkijuhlat, founded in 1968) in Finland and the Viljandi Folk Music Festival (Est. Viljandi pärimusmuusika festival, founded in 1993) in Estonia (Kõmmus 2023). Methodologically the study applies phenomenological qualitative research methods, including participant observation and interviews (Orbe 2009). The theoretical framework relies on the studies related to folk music revival, Finnic traditional music and folk music festivals (Kuutma 1998; Laitinen 2003; Rüütel & Tiit 2005, 2006; Ronström 2014). The presentation reveals how a comparative study of current folk music festivals of linguistically, culturally, and historically related Estonian and Finnish peoples highlights significant features of their folk music. It also offers perspectives to comprehend the practices and processes of local folk music festivals in the context of global traditional music revival.

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