

## Multipart Singing in Northern Latgale: Dynamics of Tradition in the Late 20th – Early 21st Century

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### Abstract

In Northern Latgale, a region in North-Eastern Latvia bordering with Russia, multipart singing is characteristic for the traditional vocal repertoire. Here drone singing and *ostinato* can be found, different forms of harmonic multipart singing are represented also. This article is dedicated to the living practice of multipart singing. Typical types of multipart singing found in Northern Latgale will be acquainted, but also its life in the 1990ies and the early 21st century will be followed, outlining the most important contexts and conditions that have influenced the practice of multipart singing in the region. In the 1990s there was a lively tradition of multipart singing whereas in the 21st century multipart music in Northern Latgale is entering a new phase.

During the fieldwork in the 1990ies several interesting types of multipart singing were discovered, most notable of which are drone singing and multipart singing with a solo upper accompanying part. Their description in this article is based on the results of the fieldwork; further studies of Martin Boiko are used.