

The Revival of Lithuanian Polyphonic *sutartinės* Songs in the Late 20th and Early 21st Century

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Abstract

In this paper the revival of *sutartinės*, ancient multipart chants in Lithuania, is discussed. Characteristic features of *sutartinės* are: a narrow melodic range, the prevalence of dissonances, heterophony, complementary rhythms, onomatopoeia, imitations of birdsong and tootling instruments, polytextuality, song-dance-music syncretism. The authentic tradition of singing *sutartinės* collectively in their natural rural environment disappeared during the 20th century. The author describes the revival process since 1970. First, some folklore ensembles tried to practice this style. Then discussions started about how to sing. In the late 20th century and early 21st century the 'post-folklore' movement began; a number of groups interested in different post-folklore categories sought new modes of expression and experimentation. For many of them, *sutartinės* have become an important starting point. In this period there was oral transmission of the tradition as well as its transformation. In this paper several trends of transformation will be discussed: traditional singing in small groups, singing in large groups, '*sutartinės* revival' music, and traditional singing combined with other music and art forms (recreation/reshaping/renewal).