

Mobility of musicians and dissemination of music in the eastern Baltic area in the second half of the Swedish regime: about applicability of the cross-cultural approach on the reconstruction of the local music history

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Abstract

The cross-cultural approach (originally Espagne, Middell 1985) seems to be very applicable on the state of affairs in the eastern Baltic area in the second half of the Swedish regime – multiple local parties were involved and influence from Germany and Sweden etc. However, for music history writing, central points of the approach – the active role of the receiver in cultural transfer, de- and recontextualisation of cultural good and the importance of mediators in the transfer process – are useful to varying degrees and several problems arise when the approach is applied on the music history of Baltic area in the 17th century. In this paper, applicability of the approach on the reconstruction of the music history of Baltic area in the 17th century is examined critically and its benefits are illustrated in some examples. The approach can render a good service for feeling out multifaceted background of musical transfer. So besides trade connections, traffic links or musical aspects also structural-institutional ones like hierarchy of musical posts can account for musical contacts between certain towns (e. g. Tallinn/Narva and Lübeck; Danzig/Königsberg and Riga) or for absence between the others (Tallinn and Danzig).