Performing Nostalgia: Migration Culture and Creativity in South Albania

Eckehard Pistrick, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

SOAS Musicology Series

How do migrants express and imagine themselves through musical practice? How does music help them to construct social imaginaries and to cope with longings and belongings? In this study of migration music in postsocialist Albania, Eckehard Pistrick identifies links between sound, space, emotionality and mobility in performance, provides new insights into the controversial relationship between sound and migration, and sheds light on the cultural effects of migration processes. Central to Pistrick’s approach is the essential role of emotionality for musical creativity which is highlighted throughout the volume.

About the author: Eckehard Pistrick is a post-doctoral researcher and lecturer in ethnomusicology at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany with a focus on Southeast Europe. He is an associate member of the Centre de Recherche en Ethnomusicologie (CREM), Paris and has, since 2004, conducted extensive fieldwork in Albania as well as in Greece, Bulgaria and Kosovo.

Contents: Introduction: sound, space and mobility; Vocal multipart practice in Albania; Reading the absences – approaching the field; Migration and mobility in Albania; Migration, emotions and creativity; Migration in performance – village feasts and nostalgia; ‘The deep wound’ – memorialising migration; Two absences – migration up to death; Conclusion: sound, space and mobility – lessons from the Albanian case; Bibliography; Index.

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