

Abstract

This book contains the text of the doctoral dissertation defended by Maria Małanicz-Przybylska in January 2017 at the University of Warsaw. It is the outcome of the ethnographic field research conducted by the author in Skalne Podhale region in the years of 2011–2015. The researcher's objective was to examine the contemporary highlanders' daily life, with the focus on two main topics: music and tradition. She talked to the local folk musicians about the music they play most often, took part in many official musical events (festivals, competitions, concerts and rehearsals of the regional bands), as well as the events closed to the outside attendees (i.e. private parties called *posiady*, music lessons, wedding receptions, funerals, etc.). The author also visited places where music became a tourist commodity and as such was sold to tourists – she spent a lot of time in restaurants and pubs with live music, and participated in the talks on the highlanders' music and culture organized specially for tourists.

The analysis of the material collected during the research – the interlocutors' statements and situations and events observed, prompted the author to make an attempt to answer the questions about the meaning of musical tradition for the contemporary highlanders, its role in their everyday life as well as its impact on the process of self-determination and developing the local identity.

Constructing the thesis, the researcher used the term „rhizome” created by Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari. Their „rhizome” is, among others, a metaphor of the modern world depicting the non-hierarchical multiplicity and ambiguity in which we are all immersed. In the jungle of things, meanings, judgments, situations and contexts, the author decided to track only two threads of the „rhizome” – tradition and music. She followed them and checked where they meet and where they diverge, when they gain the greatest power, and where they lose their significance. The author looked carefully where the two threads meet and intersect with other matters, such as the contemporary highlanders' identity, building the local community, preferred norms and world view, the shape and importance of a family, the attitude towards strangers, developing the symbolic power and the

right to self-determination. The researcher tried to understand the current meaning of the highlanders' culture, the way it works, and how it is practiced for everyday and special occasions.

Keywords: Podhale, tradition, highlanders' music, highlanders' culture, anthropology of music

Słowa kluczowe: Podhale, tradycja, muzyka góralska, góralszczyzna, antropologia muzyki