

The Impact of Folklore in Artistic Discourse

Impact may flourish during Nationalistic trends in society

--intellectual elite may develop artistic languages in opposition to a foreign artistic influence (i.e., part of modernism)

--revolutionary socio-economic changes may have taken place, whereby exaltation of the values of “the people” may be the acceptable artistic expression

--folklore provides avenues for variation and innovations, creating national and personal artistic identity

--Ethnographic and phonographic collections compiled by intellectuals and scholars usually initiate these movements a generation before the composers embrace a modernist nationalist style

Musical parameters to review:

- 1- Melodies may be based in folk modes rather than major/minor scales; and on asymmetrical meters or syncopated rhythms. Small cells and narrow ranges tend to predominate in folk styles, but it depends on the culture.
- 2- Composers may adopt folk instruments, or emulate their playing gestures
- 3- Choral and vocal pieces use folk legends or rituals as text
- 4- Texture avoids Western polyphony in favor of stratification, heterophony and chanting
- 5- Folk dances are ubiquitous
- 6- References to nature and nature spirits are common
- 7- Programmatic references to a mysterious or mythical enemy or monster may be a stand-in for an imperial power that the nation wishes to overcome
- 8- Discovery of all these unusual components may be manipulated into an individual organic concert language in modernism, but integrated without mediation in post-modernism.