

Music at weddings in Zagreb

Central to ethnomusicological explorations of rituals and customs is their relation to music and search for meanings communicated by musical performances. Regarding the importance of music in wedding rituals, it is possible to say that music's role is almost inevitable. In addition to conducting and channeling wedding activities, thus ensuring their coherence, music evokes (targeted) feelings and emotions and contributes to the formation, negotiation and confirmation of different (temporary) communities and identities. With research directed towards music at weddings in Zagreb area, I focus on three aspects that were already in initial insights revealed as defining and predominant: first of all, the role of music at the wedding as a key ritual of transition and one of the most important life-cycle customs, then the aspect of music labour, and finally aspect of community dynamics. The uttermost intention of this research is to provide an in-depth insight into the current prevailing musical practice related to weddings, while providing a framework for defining and understanding the role of musicians and the characteristics of music they (create?) and perform in specific local and ritual contexts. This presentation provides insight into some of the ethnographic findings to date.