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978-0-521-17834-1 - The Invention of "Folk Music" and "Art Music": Emerging Categories from Ossian to Wagner
Matthew Gelbart
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The Invention of ''Folk Music'' and ''Art Music''

We tend to take for granted the labels we put to different forms of music. This study considers the origins and implications of the way in which we categorize music today. Whereas earlier ways of classifying music were based on its different functions, for the past two hundred years we have been obsessed with creativity and musical orgins, and classify music along these lines. Matthew Gelbart argues that folk music and art music became meaningful concepts only in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and only in relation to each other. He examines how cultural nationalists motivated the earliest classification of music by origins, and how the notions of folk music and art music followed – in conjunction with changing conceptions of nature, and changing ideas about human creativity. Through tracing the history of these musical categories, the book confronts our assumptions about different kinds of music today.

MATTHEW GELBART teaches in the Music Department at Boston College, Massachusetts. His work has been published in the *Journal of the Royal Music Association*. This is his first book.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSIGTY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Tokyo, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521178341

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First published 2007
First paperback edition 2011

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-86303-2 Hardback
ISBN 978-0-521-17834-1 Paperback

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to so many people for helping to shape and improve this study over many years. Although it has been recast, the project began as my doctoral dissertation, and I am particularly grateful to Anthony Newcomb who was a fantastic advisor – reading drafts in all kinds of forms and always providing insightful comments. My other readers, Mary Ann Smart and Celeste Langan, were also extremely supportive. Before and after the project was reworked, many others have offered me invaluable critique – on small points and large. William Weber and Claire Nelson read the entire manuscript and offered great suggestions at various points. I would also like to thank Beth Levy, John Roberts, Paul Alpers, Benjamin Walton, Jacob Hosler, Katherine Bergeron, Alan Dundes, Annette Richards, and the series editors for their feedback. Others have contributed to this project through stimulating conversation: David McGuinness, Kenneth Elliott, Thomas Grey, Sonia Tinagli Baxter, Marjorie Rycroft, Maynard Solomon, Wendy Allanbrook, and Warwick Edwards. All of these people may or may not agree with what I have written in the end, but their comments and criticisms have helped me formulate and sharpen my own thoughts.

I am deeply indebted to the American Musicological Society for providing the funding – in the form of the Alvin H. Johnson AMS 50 Fellowship – that allowed me to travel and do research abroad; also to UC Berkeley for awarding me a Humanities Research Grant, and later to Boston College for giving me time to finish the book.

The staffs of the various libraries at which I have worked have made my research a pleasure: at the National Library of Scotland, the British Library, the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, the UC Berkeley music library, the Harvard University libraries (including especially the Eda Kuhn Loeb Music Library), the Boston College libraries, the Reid Music Library at the University of Edinburgh, the School of Scottish Studies library in Edinburgh, the Scottish Music Information Center in Glasgow, the Edinburgh and Glasgow University Libraries, the Dundee Public Library, the National Library of the Czech Republic, and the Society of Antiquaries in Newcastle.

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For help with translations from various languages, I am grateful to Barbara Titus, Bettina Varwig, Matthias Roeder, Greg Freeman, Holly Watkins, and Peter Schmelz.

At Cambridge University Press, Victoria Cooper and Rebecca Jones have been unfailingly helpful since we first began to work together.

My parents, Bill and Nina Gelbart, who have always offered me unconditional love and support over the years, nurtured me not only emotionally but also intellectually during the writing. My wife Petra has contributed to more aspects of my work than anyone else, and should really be thanked in every category above: for stimulating discussions and ideas, helpful editing, language assistance, comic relief – for everything.

My young son Patrik has been a part of every facet of my life in the later stages of this project, and is already swaying, spinning, and dancing knowingly to music at the tender age of two. It was my grandfather, David Rattner, who first took *me* in his lap when I was little and talked and argued with me about music for hours. Perhaps he started this whole thing, so it is to his memory that I dedicate the book.

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