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Elements in Music and the City

edited by

Simon McVeigh

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University of Haifa

BACKGROUND MUSIC CULTURES IN FINNISH URBAN LIFE

Heikki Uimonen

University of Eastern Finland

Kaarina Kilpiö

Sibelius Academy, Uniarts Helsinki

Meri Kytö

University of Turku



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Heikki Uimonen , Kaarina Kilpiö , Meri Kytö
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One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
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Background Music Cultures in Finnish Urban Life

Elements in Music and the City

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Heikki Uimonen
University of Eastern Finland
Kaarina Kilpiö
Sibelius Academy, Uniarts Helsinki
Meri Kytö
University of Turku

Author for correspondence: Heikki Uimonen, heikki.uimonen@uef.fi

Abstract: This Element focuses on how music is experienced, articulated, and reclaimed in urban commercial environments. Special attention is paid to listeners, spaces, and music, co- and re-produced continuously in their triangular relationship affected by social, legal, economic, and technological factors. The study of the historical development of background music industries, construction of contemporary sonic environments, and individual meaning-making is based on extensive data gathered through interviews, surveys, and fieldwork, and supported by archival research. Due to the Finnish context and the ethnomusicological approach, this study is culture-sensitive, providing a fresh ‘factory-to-consumer’ perspective on a phenomenon generally understood as industry-lead, behavioural, and global. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

Keywords: background music, anthropology of sound, muzak, sonic environment, urban space

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