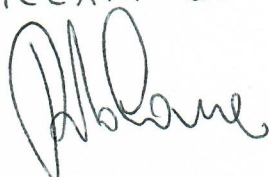


ABSTRACT

The doctoral dissertation investigates the phenomenon of the decline of the Wind-Bands in Southern Italy. Wind-Bands are musical ensembles existing all around the world, but experiencing a stronger traditional presence in certain regions of the globe. One of these regions is Southern Italy. In this geographical area, this phenomenon developed historically over two centuries and has taken on shapes now considered traditional. As a consequence, in 2019 a proposal was presented to UNESCO for the protection of Wind-Bands as an intangible heritage. This cultural phenomenon needs protection because its typical features do not only concern the musical repertoire but also a whole social, cultural and economic system that is rapidly changing, to the point that it puts the Wind-Band itself at risk of extinction. The research is divided into two parts. The first part is a careful historical analysis of the phenomenon worldwide, with a specific focus on Europe and Italy. The second part takes a sociological perspective and presents a mixed-methods empirical investigation of the current situation in Southern Italy. Among the research techniques used by the author one finds participant observation, questionnaires, and expert interviews. Overall, the research takes into account the change of values in the larger society and in the music subculture, leading to the progressive decline of the Wind-Band. According to the author, now, in Southern Italy, we observe a profoundly transformed socio-cultural framework in which the working-class that provided the predominant part of Wind-Band's musicians in the past no longer exists and has given way to a sort of middle-class (mainly composed of state employees) that no longer shares the values of the previous generation. Besides, the process of secularization challenges the importance of religious recurrences, in particular the celebration of the Patron Saints of cities, that traditionally requires the presence of Wind-Bands. The conclusion is that Wind-Bands still exist but lost their traditional social prestige and emancipatory role.

KEYWORDS: WIND-BAND, FIELD, SYMBOLIC CAPITAL, MUSIC, VALUES, DECLINING, PATRONAL FEAST, *BANDA DA GIRO*, SOCIAL TIES.

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