

A North Korean Diasporic Community of Performers



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Introduction



- Sociopolitical polarization of two Koreas brought *Korean War* on June 25, 1950.
- Massive population movement from North Korea
- Ŭnyul *t'alch'um* performers (Ŭnyul to Inch'ŏn)

Methods

- Oral Interview with practitioners
- Archival Research

Thesis Statement

- In this diasporic community, music and performance originally derived from North Korea is main element to recall their identification and to reflect on the after generation of North Korean immigrants' nostalgic feelings.

Key words /Purpose

- Music and Migration/North Korean Immigrants/ Ŭnyul Masked Dance Drama/ Mobility/ Musical Identity
- The purpose of this study is exploring music's role to a North Korean diasporic community

Migration and Restoration

- Settlement: The reason for settling in Inch'ŏn was because of its relative proximity to their hometown.
- Government's nomination as a National Intangible Cultural Heritage in 1978.

Performance and Sustainability

- Emergence of Ŭnyul *t'alch'um* Preservation Association(UTPA), a non-profit corporation incorporated with the permission of the Administrator of the Cultural Heritage Administration.
- UTPA began to focus more on promoting its performance to the public. It took the first step in recruiting new members from the general public providing a formal class in 1983.(College Students and folklorists)

Liability on Succession

- Duty of Cultural holder
- legally operates under the Act on the Safeguarding and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage, and established autonomy based on the regular member system for effectiveness and longevity.

Musical Identity

- Ethnic originality and remembrance can be germane to the music in an uncommon manner as music has enough power to not only present an identification of an ethnic community but also evoke inherent emotion which directly can cause an action for claiming or compromising an identity in a specifically strong way. (Baily 1994: 48).
- Based on two anecdotes from practitioners, they revealed their identity and sentiments related to Ŭnyul *t'alch'um*.

Conclusion



- The music and performing arts galvanized a scattered people looking for networking and personal connections to congregate in one city. The music also stimulated descendants to maintain a strong bond with the earlier musicians from North Korea. This living tradition successfully regained its vigor in South Korea and led to a resurgence on the national stage.

Discussion

- In migratory process, immigration also affects to the music with auxiliary parts
- What would be other roles of music except revealing their identity?

References

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