

Drumming Styles in Romani Music in Bulgaria in the Early 21st Century through the Prism of Drummer Sasho Bikov's Individual Style

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The first decades of the 21st century mark a period of particularly dynamic development of percussion instruments in Romani music from Bulgaria – a trend that remains highly relevant today. The presented text is part of an extensive study that aims to outline a clear theoretical framework for the function of drums as instruments within the stylistic contexts of Bulgarian wedding music and contemporary Romani music. To this end, the study focuses on the Romani drummer Sasho Bikov, who stands as both a witness to and an active participant in the development of percussion instruments in Bulgarian wedding music in the late 20th century. In the early 21st century, he transfers the “tradition” of wedding drums into new stylistic currents of Romani music from the Balkans and becomes a key innovator of Romani drumming styles.

Keywords: *ethnomusicology, wedding music, drumming style, Romani musicians*

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