Estonian song celebration movement and its leaders: the story of Tuudur Vettik

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Subject(s): Theatre, Dance, Performing Arts, Cultural history, Music
Published by: Teaduste Akadeemia Kirjastus
Keywords: historical research; Soviet cultural policy; ideological mental violence; intellectual resistance; Song Celebration Movement; Song Festival Ground; Song Celebration leaders; choral music; repertoire;
Summary/Abstract: This article focuses on the role and fate of some outstanding and creative intellectuals-choir leaders and composers in the Movement of the Estonian Song Celebrations. The position of song celebrations and that of the creative intellectuals – choir leaders in socio-political processes are examined in this research, looking at the years before and after WWII period and the years of Soviet annexation. One of the most remarkable personalities during this period was the conductor, composer and music teacher Tuudur Vettik. The article researches the way of becoming a leader of the popular cultural movement and tries to answer a question – did Tuudur Vettik become such kind of a leader of Song Celebrations through his methodological activity or pure charisma. This paper also tries to find out what kind of circumstances helped or obstructed him on this way. The article helps to fill a gap in the research of Estonian post-WWII choral music history, since the cultural policy of the period has been studied mostly from the aspects of literature, theatre and art.
for studying this subject is the correspondence between two creative figures: Tuudur Vettik and Roland Laasmae. This period in the Estonian Song Celebration history was marked by an ideological pressure from the Communist Party, and creative figures - poets, composers, choirmasters and bodies organising the Song Celebrations - largely depended on the attitude of party leaders and on cooperation with them to ensure their stable and calm day-to-day existence. Rebels could expect a whole range of repressions: imprisonment, deportation to Siberia, or local persecution and boyco