

Oceania

- Australia,
- Papua New Guinea,
- Hawaii, Kiribati

Oceania Map

Background Preparation

- Nearly 25,000 islands
- Australia, Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia
- 1,200 different languages
 - English & French common
- Animism/Totemism, Christianity
- Primarily vocal music

(class notes)

- Divided into three groups all of which are in the Pacific Ocean. Also the total land mass of Australia is 7.6 square km. and all the other Islands combined are 8 hundred thousand square km.
 - Melanesia – means “Dark Island”
 - Micronesia—Means “small Island”
 - Polynesia – means “many Islands”
- A common denominator with all groups is a close tie to nature. Complex **animistic and totemistic** spiritual systems have evolved throughout Oceania, in which practitioners call on animals and natural elements for guidance, protection, and subsistence.
- Thought influence of Christian missionaries and colonies from mostly Britain have influenced the culture, making the common language English, and French there still remains approx 1200 different dialects throughout Oceania.
- The Music is primarily vocal.

Planning the Itinerary

- Didgeridu and instrument found among the Aborigines of northern
- Australia. Classified as a trumpet, uses circular breathing.
- Mouth harp, a piece of wood with a string.
- Hawaiian slack guitar
- Choral traditions.

Australia

Site 1:
Aborigine Song with didgeridu

Arrival: Australia

- The “Outback” or “Bush”
 - Arnhem Land, Northern Territory
- Aborigines
 - 40,000 year old culture
 - Nomadic lifestyle
- Dreamtime

– Concept of Creation

(Class notes)

- Most cities are on the coast.
- The interior is referred to as the Bush or the OutBack.
- Most of the native Aborigines now live on a reservation called Arnhem Land where some thirty thousand live.
- Those that don't live on the Res still conform to the nomadic traditions.
- **Animism** the belief that all living things as well as natural phenomena, such as wind or fire, have a spirit.
- **Dreamtime** – Aboriginal cosmology and is the focus of much artistic activity within the Aboriginal communities of Australia.

Site 1: Aboriginal Music

- First Impressions
 - Low rumble & “bang”
- Aural Analysis
 - Didgeridu
- Circular Breathing
 - Clapsticks
 - Vocal “Storyteller”

(class notes)

- first impressions.
 - didgeridoo is playing as drone, the boomerang is used as clapsticks. And the storyteller shouts out even to his ancestors.
- Aural Analysis.
 - Didgeridoo is made from wood, eucalyptus or blood wood branch that was hallowed by termites, has beeswax on the mouthpiece end and requires circular breathing to be used.
- Cultural considerations.
 - Dream time dreaming, supposedly put them in contact with the spirits of their ancestors, they believe that they go back to a time when the earth was just a swirl, and are able to talk to them, these spirits give them “History songs” which they believe have been unchanged, this music is part of their belief structure.
 - Women are not allowed to play the didgeridoo. Because it being from the spirits would cause the woman to become too fertile and produce more children than the tribe can support.
 - These instruments are most commonly used for funeral and boy circumcision.

Cultural Considerations

- History songs
- Wondjina (spirits)
- Corroboree
- Aboriginal women
 - do not play didgeridu

Papua New Guinea

Site 2: Susap

(class notes)

- Site 2: Susap (LAMELLOPONE) from Papua New Guinea
- Explore More: Singing of Papua New Guinea

Things to remember from chapter 3.

World music a global journey chapter 3

Cultural considerations beyond sounds themselves.

All music manifests itself with a "culture" however defined, and has meanings for those who create, perform or consume it that go far beyond the sounds themselves.

Cultural knowledge's.

Culture impacts us who we are depends on where you are and with whom you are living.

Ethnocentrism—the sense that one's own culture is "normal," and that cultures which exhibit differences, both great and small, are "abnormal," "weird" or "exotic", is a natural perspective.

Knowledge from outside cultures is given the following terms

ETIC—from phonetic—Outsider knowledge. And

EMIC—from phonemic—Insider knowledge.

If we are looking in from outside we don't know what that music really means to the insider, we have the danger of attaching our own definitions according to our culture, and not the meaning that is intended.

Phoneme—small sound like ph the smallest sounds of words.

Phonemic—over all. Phoneme singular..

Dr. Judith Beck and Inside Look

Ethnomusicologist, who is professor of gamelan music and later trance, made a connection that people she calls deep listeners are somehow common in the way they are moved by music.

Value system and Hierarchies.

Because of different value systems one might question if a Hierarchy would even work, as until recently the study of music meant the study of western music. Today all these systems are still being made to incorporate world music's.

Music and Identity.

The thought that nationality is a source of identity is false, so is stereotyping, just because a person is black doesn't make them African, there are white Africans also. Western is also false along that train of thought. Along with other cultural elements, such as language, religion, dress, diet, and so on, music shapes how people think about themselves. Identity is sort of I think therefore I am.

Use versus Function

Arrival: Papua New Guinea

- Largest island of Melanesia
- Fewer than 5 million inhabitants
- More than 700 indigenous languages
 - English is “official” language

Site 2: Susap (mouth harp)

- First Impressions
 - “Electronic” timbre
- Aural Analysis
 - Susap
 - Mouth is resonator
 - Manipulation of overtones

Cultural Considerations

- Susap acts as a “speech surrogate”
 - “Disguises” speech
- Common to courting rituals
 - Possesses love-controlling magic

Hawaii

Site 3: Drum-Dance Chant

Arrival: Hawaii

- Northernmost islands of Polynesia
- Captain James Cook (1778)
- King Kamehameha I & II
- Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941)
- 50th U.S. state (1959)

Site 3: Drum-Dance Chant

- First Impressions
 - “Wavy” chant
 - “Earthy” drums
- Aural Analysis
 - Kilu and pahu
 - Vocal vibrato
 - Open-ended words

Cultural Considerations

- Mele (poetry)
- Hula (dance)
- Pahu drum considered sacred
 - Mana (spiritual power)

Kiribati

Site 4: Group Song

Arrival: Kiribati

- Group of islands, including:
 - Line Islands (east)
 - Phoenix Islands (central)
 - Gilbert Islands (west)

- British protectorates during 1800s
- Christian missionaries influential

Site 4: Kiribati Group Song

- First Impressions
 - “Youthful” a capella choir
- Aural Analysis
 - Call & Response
 - Unison rhythm
 - Handclaps

Cultural Considerations

- Music skills are valuable clan property
- Maneaba - communal meeting houses
- Music and dance once used for “battle”
- European Colonialism affected music function and form

Class notes

An Inside Look: Amy Ku’uleialoha stillman

Explore More: Hawaiian Steel Guitar and Ukulele

Site 3: Hawaiiin Drum-Dance Chant.

Arrival Kiribati

site 4: group song for bino (sitting dance) from Kiribati.

Questions to Consider.

On Your own time.