



THE BODY BETWEEN ECSTASY AND DISCIPLINE

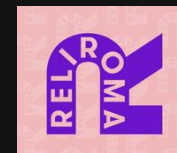
Music, Pentecostalizing and Religious Experience among Roma in Slovakia

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FROM RELIGIOUS CHANGE TO EMBODIED EXPERIENCE

- mission
- ↓
- music
- ↓
- participation
- ↓
- emotion
- ↓
- body
- ↓
- religious experience
- Religious change does not involve only beliefs, but also ways of praying, singing, feeling and using the body.





MUSIC AS A MEDIUM OF PARTICIPATION

“A person can enter prayer better through a song than if somebody simply talks to him.”
Greek Catholic, Čičava, 2012

Music as:

- worship
- prayer
- participation
- service

“We want to play about God.
We want to play for the Lord. Not for the world.”
Čirkev bratská / Church of the Brethren, Čičava, 2012





WHEN THE BODY PARTICIPATES

- “I felt that I was burning”
- “I stood up born again”
- “I began to dance”

Maranata, Rudňany

- I FELT
- I OPENED MYSELF
- I BEGAN TO DANCE

Body is not only expressing religious experience.

It is part of the experience itself.

PENTECOSTALISM AS A RELIGION OF PARTICIPATION

not only:

- listen

but:

- Sing
- Pray
- Move
- Testify
- Create
- Serve



Faith is something you do, feel and embody.



WHY DOES PENTECOSTALISM RESONATE?

- Participation
- Immediacy
- Emotion
- Musical Agency
- Healing
- Belonging

Faith is not only something you believe.

It is something you do, feel and embody.





WHEN THE SONG BECOMES PRAYER

“I want the melody of the
beating of Your heart.”

prayer → **inspiration** → **song**
→ **service**

MUSIC AS:

- personal prayer
- inspiration of the Holy Spirit
- healing
- service



FROM PENTECOSTALISM TO PENTECOSTALIZATION

NOT ONLY CONVERSION BETWEEN CHURCHES

BUT:

CIRCULATION OF PRACTICES

- worship music
- spontaneous prayer
- Holy Spirit
- emotional immediacy
- testimony
- healing
- lay participation

→ **ACROSS DENOMINATIONS**



DIFFERENT REGIMES OF EMBODIMENT

- different theology /
different liturgy



but sometimes:

- similar musical practices
- similar emotional
language
- similar emphasis on
participation





ECSTASY AND DISCIPLINE

“The body asks against the Spirit.”

Stanko Mižigar, Žehra 2024

The body as a place of divine presence:

- Feeling
- Ecstasy
- Dance
- Crying
- movement

And the body as a place of struggle:

- self-control
- moral discipline
- Restraint
- “the body against the spirit”



THE DIVINE DANCE

“We don't watch the dance as spectators.

We participate in the dance as partners.”

Richard Rohr, The Divine Dance (2016)

- participation
- relationship
- movement
- presence

Amaro Del, amaro Del,
amen leske chvali bašavas.
Miro Del amaro džido,
amen les Devla bararas,
amaro Del.

To our God, to our God we
sing praises.
My God lives, we praise
God, our God.

Markušovce, Maranata 2012





Thank you for your attention!

The photographs and recordings used in the presentation are outputs of the SRDA 22-0389 RELIROMA project and will form part of the forthcoming RELIROM-ART portal, dedicated to Roma spiritual culture and spirituality (photographs by: Daniela Rusnoková and Jana Belišová; recording from the fieldwork research of Jana Belišová).