BAGPIPES IN THE BLATA REGION OF BOHEMIA

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Abstract

Blata is an agricultural area that at one time supported a rich musical tradition that included the use of bagpipes. It is located in the region known as jižní Čechy or South Bohemia in the Czech Republic. In this thesis, Blata is defined and the use of bagpipes in Bohemia and Blata, specifically, is examined through legend and first-hand accounts. What is known of two bagpipers who left Blata and immigrated to Nebraska and Minnesota is included. Bagpipes thought to originate from Blata are described. The short-necked violin, an instrument used with bagpipes in Blata and other regions of Bohemia, is presented. The construction of a replica bagpipe of the type used in Blata is documented, and five folk songs are included, arranged for bagpipe, E-flat clarinet, and violin.
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