

TRIBINA IEF-a

U KNJIŽNICI **INSTITUTA ZA ETNOLOGIJU I FOLKLORISTIKU** (ŠUBIĆEVA 42, V. KAT)

GUIDO RASCHIERI LINDA CIMARDI

Posavina sings and cries

This lecture will deal with music and dance expressions from Bosnian Posavina, which rotate around the joined use of šargija and violin. These instruments accompany both couple singing and kolo circle dancing. Traditional couple singing is linked to the songs accompanying dancing, but during the last century evolved autonomously and since the 1960s became a specific genre thanks to the dedication of professional singers. The development of couple singing runs parallel to the historical and social changes in Posavina that are reflected in songs, which deal with themes such as the economic transformations after World War II causing the impoverishment of Posavina and the consequent emigration, the status of emigrants abroad, the 1990s war provoking the crisis of Catholic Croatian presence in the area and the new refugee status of the people from Posavina. Croatia, and Zagreb in particular, were the main destinations of the escape from war and with time became the place of a stable settling. For a numerous community of people from Posavina, Croatia is a "second homeland", but the deep cultural and emotional bond with their fatherland is still alive. The cultural heritage of Posavina is today in the hands of different associations, mostly KUDs, which are also the centre of their community life, acting as poles of aggregation, discussion and entertainment. Kolo dancing characterizes most of the gatherings and

initiatives of these associations and attracts and involves several youth of Posavina descent. *Kolo* crosses the various levels of the current life of folk music and dance: it is performed at folklore festival, elaborated for choreographies and, most importantly, performed spontaneously during weekly gatherings and parties. Participated by the whole community, *kolo* dancing represents a shared place to collectively redefine Posavina identity, to reconnect past and future.

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