



ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-CULTURAL ASPECTS OF AMATEUR MUSIC ENSEMBLES: IZMIR EXAMPLE

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ABSTRACT

Amateur music ensembles appear as a multi-faceted social phenomenon. Most of them enjoy the presence of a patron society, as well as of a community of audience members, that support their activities. In this study, this phenomenon is studied in a socio-cultural model, through the ensemble's social and economic parameters. Thus, amateur music ensembles, communities and societies are viewed in terms of "where they get their energy" and "what are their weaknesses. In this research, a theoretical overview of a phenomenon of "amateur ensembles" is presented. Survey method is used in the research. 62 music communities of within the İzmir Municipality are examined in regards to their inner dynamics and the interactions between different communities.

Keywords: Amateur, ensemble, community, music.

INTRODUCTION

In the general meaning, communities is a form of organization consisting of persons who come together with in the framework of a specific purpose thought or expediency (Narı, 1999: 33). Having a form of social organization it is necessary to maintain the social structure itself. Therefore organizing communities come together is located within the social structure of each. The concept of the choir according to the Turkish dictionary published by the Institution of the Turkish Language, it is defined as a community coming together to implement a musical work written in a single or multi-voice (T.D.K, 2005: 1219). Çevik (1997) defines choirs as follows: Choirs are sound collection balanced in terms of analog process or voice audio type audio capability and timbre, in accordance with a predetermined model established for the purpose of performing of interpretation of polyphonic music or work of a single work activities that contribute to society's cultural and artistic life.

Music communities have an important role on creation of the traditional singing together and transferring from generation to generation. Akdeniz (1987), "Music communities in our society extending today to tomorrow will have continuity by people pointed out that music communities had a great value on transposition of music" with the words, he wants to mean that music communities will make great contributions to our country's musical life. Music communities are effective in educational environments in which individual can develop his personality, spice up his life, prove himself, learn self confidence, learn to control himself and respect for others. Accordingly facilitate compliance with his life and community.

The most common execution area of music playing on important role in the development of social communication between people are amateur music communities. Amateur music communities were established in the aim of execution and representation of music a very important branch of our national culture, being able to transfer this art to future generations as required, ensuring the prevalence by introducing the music genres they are present, developing quality of music and culture of the society by increasing and ensuring that the assessment of leisure time with the music. While creating amateur music groups art is not considered as a commercial commodity. Most of the commodities have survived economically under very bad conditions for the sake of maintaining social activities showing continuity and cherishing their favorite music. People who keep these communities in the majority of the time outside of work make music by working diligently regardless of any material interest even giving a certain amount of money. It isn't possible for maintaining their existence of music groups without payment and giving concerts. Amateur music communities, although not established for the purpose of earning, these expenses such as working and concert halls rent, payments to made to



instrument players and technical staff, the amount payable for stage setting in the concerts, supplying their requirements of music stand, chair, tea, coffee, glasses etc. in the working parts must be met. Amateur groups meet these expenses with membership fees, donations and grants to community, in come from social activities and through the people and institutions that sponsored. Many forms of the basis of event activity are sponsorship programs. Music also about sponsorship is one of the popular sectors. Most of the music sponsorship is on supplying of concert clothing, concert hall rental, subsidy etc...

Obtaining prestige, it is an area in which music is used as a means of personal expression. This usage resulting from the desire to show case their skills in front of others is defined “the athletic of music” by Bruno Nettl. Making music with the aim of obtaining prestige brings benefits not only to good music player but also to communities supporting and organising him/her (Odabaşı 2001-41).

Members in the on going musical communities resolve quests to make music together, create friends environment based on their musical tastes by obtaining environment, extend their social activities. Member have the chance to develop their repertoires and sing right sounds. People who earned the some songs in a community can say the same songs in their daily lives when they come together for reasons such as trip leisure, evening gatherings. This situation will reinforce the sense of togetherness by ensuring unity for feeling and behavior in interpersonal. On the other hand, music is an activity that contributed to the development of personality is determined by the social environment and finalized within the limits imposed by the social environment. But being independent is of great importance in the development of personality. The amateur music groups are important as of education where people can feel free to get rid of these limited circles. This study, communities comprising of established without having objection of providing in come and on going members unpaid to participate in community have been included in “amateur communities. This study, with a review of cognitive and made in the context of music ensembles has a pattern of aiming at defining the continuity of communities, working styles and how to organise the human relationship of members.

The Purpose of The Research and the Research Hypothesis

The purpose of this study is to examine amateur music communities' social economic status in Izmir and to find out what is going on elements allowing communities to continue for many years. In the scope of the research, they seek solutions for the following research questions.

1. Despite the material impossibility, rather than the love of music, socio-cultural reasons lie maintaining their existence of amateur music communities.
2. The majority of the members who continue to the music community in Izmir have taken place any music community before.
3. The majority of music communities in Izmir are established in Karşıyaka town where persons with a high level of income and education are located.
4. In communities, the most common discussion subject is “making solo” between managers and members.

METHOD

In a model survey type, the music-society continuity has been examined and a study was carried out in a wide range of research base on the observation. Mainly through personal interviews specific concept is accessed and overview of the use of survey the general data has been obtained. The study group within the boundaries of the municipality of Izmir is a collection of 64 amateur groups.

The method of survey has been conducted to one third of the number of members in each community in the sample. Survey questions are applied to at least 6 persons. In communities with less than 6, it



has been applied to all the members of the community. Interview questions have been asked to community manager, to a person involved in the community management and/or to the eldest member. While determining amateur music groups, survey questions be asked of these groups;

- a. Communities have a high rate of recognition,
- b. Communities rooted for many years,
- c. Communities referenced by the music authorities.
- d. Being visited of all the communities managed by the managers' running more than one group of amateur music the principles like these are based on.

FINDINGS

The data obtained from evaluating of the applied interviews survey questions and verifies the hypothesis "Rather than the love of music, socio-cultural reasons lie maintaining their existence of amateur music communities".

The majority of the managers of the research groups, despite the differences of their education institutions and area, have musical background.

Amateur music groups, for the "social-environment" encircling music community has a high and effective educational quality.

In majority of the communities a definite number of tickets are given members to sell and they sell them to their acquaintances. Therefore the majority of audiences consist of the acquaintances of the on going members of the communities.

The data obtained from the questions applied to members in samples verifies the hypothesis "The majority of the members who continue to the communities in Izmir have taken place any music community before".

With the studies of survey and interview the data verifying the hypothesis "The majority of the amateur music groups are in Karşıyaka" are obtained.

The data obtained from the interviews and observations verify the hypothesis "The most common problem arising between managers and members is about 'making solo'".

RESULT-DEBATE-SUGGESTIONS

A limited percentage of the amateur music groups in Izmir, instead of meeting their outcome from the membership fees or grants, they prefer the way of finding sponsors. So, to satisfy the sponsor institutions having them financial support, carry out the majority of their wishes. These communities can't act totally independently. In the communities depended on any association this station is more clear. Some institutions determine from how many year to determining the concert hall where the performance is going to be hold and about technical staff. The autonomy of the community completely abandoning itself to completely sponsored support, naturally, will be debated. But on the other hand, the sponsored support plays an important role for communities to perform their activities. From the financial point of that their freedom will be limited, they still would like to have a sponsor.

The most common disagreement having between the managers and members in communities about 'making solo', it can be explained that rather than having a feel of unity, the self ago becomes



dominant. On the ongoing members of these communities in Izmir explains the interpersonal disputes less.

In the collection of in Karşıyaka of the most amateur music communities and music associations in Izmir, it is thought that financial position of the residents of this neighborhood cultural heritage the social structure of Karşıyaka are effective.

In the light of knowledge obtain from the questions applied to members, it is determined that most of the amateur music groups in Izmir have concert twice a year. The communities in Izmir with a number of the given concerts and activities significantly contributed to music lie alive.

While the young groups in Izmir trying to continue the search for modernization, Turkish classical music and Turkish Folk music groups are pushing a lot for the protection and revitalization of tradition. The young communities towards popular types of music when moving the popular community identity, the other communities who seem to be more commitment to their traditions and customs carry the traditional community identity. These identification structures different from each other of amateur groups in Izmir provides living species of both traditional and popular music in this town. This situation contributes to “urban awareness” of Izmir.

The majority of the amateur music groups in Izmir besides being the communities to get qualities such as of music education help developing social and emotional skills, having mutual respect, tolerance, acceptance in the process of social interaction looking at the events in terms of others, yourself and others establish, positive human relations, taking responsibility, avoid rowing in concerns, be more flexible, be open to aid.

Finally, amateur music groups are of great importance in many ways such as contribution to cultural life and musical education of town. Residents initiatives to meet the needs of these communities must be the lead, institutions to create bodies of band requests should be encouraged, community leaders should be chosen well, the importance given human relations in the community should be increased and the adequacy of the music given communities should be increased.

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