

Transnationalization of Lutheran Hymns: Cultural Transfer and Exchange between Germany and South Africa

Do hymns reflect cosmopolitan musical processes and could they be used to build a post national understanding of the social and cultural influences of the musical past? The Evangelical Lutheran Church began in Germany in 1517 and since then has become a cosmopolitan belief system. The aim of this study was to investigate how Evangelical Lutheran hymns have been adopted and adapted within different cultures leading to a cosmopolitan interpretation of the words and musical form. The method was based on acculturation and an overview of the distribution of Evangelical Lutheran churches in Germany and South Africa. Six congregations in each country were visited and the singing of three hymns Tlotlang Modimo/Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr; Modimo wa legodimong/Ein wahrer Glaube Gotts Zorn stillt and Ba bohle lebogang Modimo/Nun danket alle Gott were observed and recorded in each. These recordings and observations were used for interpretation of cultural influences, social interweaving and mutual dependence, by musical analysis of how the two Evangelical Lutheran hymns were interpreted and sung in each country. The results showed that although Evangelical Lutheran churches were distributed throughout both countries, there were cultural differences in musical interpretation of the hymns in South Africa and Germany. The words have been translated into local languages and dialects and the music has aligned to indigenous rhythms, instruments and dance, yet they remain Lutheran hymns. It was also shown that the musical nature of the hymns appeared to be influenced by cultural differences between churches within Germany and South Africa. It was concluded that Evangelical Lutheran hymns are an example of musical processes that signal the emergence of a cosmopolitan society.

Dr Morakeng Edward Kenneth Lebakais an African Musical Arts Researcher and Old Testament Scholar, and is currently attached to the University of Pretoria as a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Old Testament Studies, Faculty of Theology. He obtained his BA (Hons), *cum laude*; BMus (Hons), with distinctions in Music Pedagogics and Ethnomusicology; Master of Arts, *cum laude* and PhD degrees in Biblical and Religious Studies from the University of Pretoria under the supervision of Prof Dirk Human. During his study for the Master of Arts degree, Edward integrated music and indigenous African religion in his thesis '*The Ritual use of Music in Indigenous African religion: A Pedi Perspective*'. He completed a Doctor of Philosophy degree with a thesis on '*Psalm-like Texts in African Culture: A Pedi Perspective*'. His research is interdisciplinary, cutting across several themes – African traditional religion, African theological thought, African music; Biblical Psalms, Pedi Psalm-like songs, Music in the Bible, heritage, African culture and identity. His research career has been diverse in focus and influenced by prolific international figures and a diversity of contacts. He has made his mark internationally in the fields of African traditional religion and African musical arts during studies and conferences in Finland, the Netherlands, Australia, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Brazil, Austria, India, London, Russia, Nigeria, Poland, Turkey, Canada, Malawi, Sweden and the United States of America. In 1999, Edward initiated a co-operation agreement for student and staff exchange between the University of Jyväskylä in Finland, and the University of Pretoria, University of South Africa (UNISA), North-West University (Potchefstroom Campus); as well as Universities in Botswana, Kenya and Zimbabwe. This agreement is still on-going. Edward has a vast research experience and has published articles and chapters in books in a number of local regional and international peer reviewed journals. He has given invited lectures in Finland, Australia, Portugal, Brazil,

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India and Spain, as well as South Africa. Edward has excellent in-depth knowledge and a strategic understanding of both basic and higher education environment. He places a high premium on research and considers the creation, application and transfer of knowledge as one of its major tasks. He has a particular interest in music and theology including religious education and regularly writes and takes workshops linking these areas together. Edward was previously a teacher, principal of school, district and regional coordinator for Arts & Culture in Sekhukhune & Nebo districts (Limpopo Province), research assistant at the University of Pretoria and University of South Africa (UNISA), Head of the Magnet school of music (Gauteng Department of Education) and artistic director of the University of Pretoria Brass Band. His multi-disciplinary background has been an advantage to fitting into any field of endeavor both in the private and public sectors.