

Nationalism in the 20th Century

- Nationalism and incorporation of National styles had an important impact in 20th century. These are two different things: it is possible to have a local folk tradition (national style) without any particularly strong nationalistic feeling; but incorporation of these styles is often result of nationalism
- Nationalism occurs when a national entity is struggling for recognition. Usually this is due to political oppression, but not always, e.g. some say the US had an inferiority complex in the early 20th Century, resulting in the urge to develop an American style in music
- One difference between 19th and 20th Century Nationalism is that 19th Century people were more apt to romanticize or idealize folk aspects, e.g. if folk melody were modal, the romantic composer would change the modal notes to make the piece major or minor. 20th Century composers would preserve the modal aspect (and other aspects) of folk music; they had early versions of tape recorders to take samples. They could then study the samples and incorporate elements of these styles into their own music