

Dimitris Skyllas

Contemporary Thoughts on the Epirote Dirge

The lecture will centre on thoughts, questions and realizations relating to the use of traditional musical material from Epirus (dirges) in contemporary music. With a focus on my work *Grief Gestures*, which will be performed at the concert, and with references to various recordings of dirges, I will pursue thoughts relating to structure and material, such as musical form, rhythm, elements of melody, the use of the pause, the passage from oral tradition to score and, finally, the sense of ritual and how all the above can impact on the creative decisions contemporary composers make.