Bibliography of Festival Publications

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Note from the compilers: Music festivals are multifaceted affairs and invite a wide range of perspectives. Therefore the literature on such events spans several disciplines. This bibliography attempts to address the interests of the CSTM readership; in other words, most festivals in the following publications have a “folk” or “roots” aspect (broadly defined). For the ease of selection, we have divided the publications into topical categories by subject matter. Publications which clearly straddle two categories have been cross-referenced.

1. Festivals: General
Publications which provide a historical survey or “bird’s eye view” of the folk/roots festival circuit, as well as studies which attempt to address theoretical issues applicable to all music festivals in general.


2. North American Folk Revival/ Contemporary Roots Festivals
As the heading suggests, these publications examine festivals that grew out of North American folk revival, as well as more contemporary festivals that were modelled after the latter type (of which many can be found across Canada today)


3. Ethnicity, Regionalism, and Tradition at Festivals

Many of the festivals featured in this section purport to represent a particular region, ethnic group, or style of performance. Common themes among these publications therefore include identity, representation, hegemony, negotiation of tradition, etc.


4. Woodstock and other Pop/Rock Festivals
While Woodstock is often remembered as a rock festival, it took place against the same social backdrop as many revival-inspired folk festivals, and also shared many of the same artists. Indeed, many authors (e.g., Laing 2004, MacDonald 2010) clearly place it on the same historical continuum as North American folk festivals. Other musical events in the 1960s and 70s shared the same “utopian” ideals as Woodstock; these include the Human Be-Ins of the 1960s, and later, the Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival, founded in the 1970s. Also, many post-Woodstock “mega events” (a.k.a. mass-mediated benefit concerts), which are mostly pop/rock-based, are often compared to Woodstock for their shared set of social ideals (see, for example, Garofalo 1992). This section therefore includes studies of Woodstock and other 1960s/1970s rock festivals, women’s festivals, “mega events,” and other related events.


5. Festivals Outside of North America


Notes

1 A travel guide which includes extensive representation of “folk”-oriented festivals across North America (including smaller bluegrass festivals and local jamborees, to large-scale roots festivals; Canadian events are well-represented).

2 Contributors: Andy Bennett, David Laing, Sheila Whiteley, John Street, Simon Warner, Allan Moore, George McKay, Dave Allen, and Gerry Bloustien.