

## **Introduction to Global Music**

The [Center for European Studies](#) (CES) and other Area Studies Centers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are collaborating with the student-run radio station [WXYC](#) in the production of the [Global Music Show](#).

This monthly hour-long program features music from a particular area of the world combined with commentary by guest scholars, who discuss the music played in the context of the culture and history of the region that produced it.

To support cultural learning, CES has created student listening guides, pre- and post-listening discussion questions, and resource links for each of their Global Music programs. The programs run about one hour, and so listening and discussion would work well for block schedule classes. If your class runs the traditional hour length, you can have the class listen over two periods, and then discuss. Alternatively, you can assign the listening for homework, and hold the discussion during class time.

Music can teach us much about a culture that never appears in a textbook. Use these programs and teaching resources to connect your students with European cultures in a dynamic, new way. Encourage students to continue their exploration of Europe through music.

## **Cross-Cultural Sampling in Hip-Hop Between the US and Central Europe**

**Brendan Daniel**

### **Pre-Listening Questions**

**Note: In this program, “Central Europe” refers to a region described during the Cold War as “Eastern Europe.” It includes Hungary, Poland, and Romania.**

Ask students to think about these questions before you listen to the program. Write their answers on the board.

1. What kinds of music do you usually associate with Central Europe? What instruments do you usually expect to hear?
2. In this program, you’re going to hear songs containing sampling from US and Central European music. Make a prediction. What will the music sound like? Why do you think the artists used sampling in their music?

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Read these questions before you start listening to “Cross-Cultural Sampling in Hip-Hop Between the US and Central Europe.” As you listen, write down your answers.

### **Cross-Cultural Sampling in Hip-Hop Between the US and Central Europe**

**Brendan Daniel**

#### **Listening Guide**

1. The show opens with a brief description of what sampling is. Define sampling in your own words.
2. Brendan Daniel remarks that DJs are “crate-diggers.” What does he mean, and how does it relate to sampling?
3. Daniel talks about “flipping” in sampling, and how it establishes a different context for a song. How does this help to create a new song?
4. We hear the song “Diviziunea tentei” by the Romanian rapper Kazi Ploae. It includes a sampling from a piece composed by a US musician. Who is the musician, and what is the name of the piece?
5. How does Kazi Ploae’s sampling differ from samplings of the same piece by US artists?
6. Next is “Osiedlowe akcje” by the Polish hip-hop group Molesta. What US song by which artist is sampled here?

7. The translation of “Osiedlowe akcje” is close to “Community Squad,” and expresses the commitment of a group, or a neighborhood, to watch out for one another. In what way does the US song sampled here express a similar feeling?
  
8. You’ve now heard two Central European hip-hop songs. How would you describe them? Which US groups or artists seem to have been big influences on the Central European artists?
  
9. Brendan Daniel talks about the fall of Communism and its effect on musical culture in Central Europe. What happened as a result?
  
10. Next we hear US DJ Cut Chemist, who samples Polish blues band Breakout’s song, “Usta mi ogrzej.” Cut Chemist uses only the first syllable of the song’s lyrics for the title. What is it?
  
11. Daniel explains the process for getting permission to sample. Why do you think labels make special allowances for sampling?
  
12. We hear KRS-One quoting a familiar US TV theme song in “MCs Act Like They Don’t Know.” What is it?

13. Hungarian hip-hop duo Akkezdet Phiai samples KRS-One's "MCs Act Like They Don't Know" in their song "Kottazur." What instrument do they add to make the song new?
  
14. Hip-hop producer The Alchemist created album "Russian Roulette" US artists sampling material from Russian and the former Eastern bloc Cold War. "I wanted to do something for Russia." What was his motivation?
  
15. In "recontextualizing" the music sampled from Russian and Eastern bloc artists, The Alchemist introduces stronger instrumentals and includes lines from "Rocky." Why does he do this?
  
16. On Kanye West's "Yeezus" album, "New Slaves" samples "Gyönghajulány" ("Girl with pearls in her hair") by Omega. West is rapping about African-American experience. Why do you think he choose to sample this particular piece by a Hungarian rock band?

### **Post-Listening Discussion**

After the class has listened to "Cross-Cultural Sampling in Hip-Hop Between the US and Central Europe," use these questions as springboards for discussion.

1. Look back on your predictions of what you would hear in the program. Was your prediction correct? Did anything surprise you about the music you heard?
2. Rap and hip-hop are known and enjoyed beyond France. What is the challenge for singers/songwriters who want to translate these songs into their own languages?
3. Kanye West may inspire others to sample Central European pieces. Which artists or groups do you think are most likely to do this?
4. What US music would you suggest be sampled by Central European artists?

**Activities:**

1. Choose three musical pieces from the program for a CD compilation. Give the CD a title and write a short description of cross-cultural sampling for the album notes.
2. Create your own original poster to advertise “Cross-Cultural Sampling.”
3. Reflect on your thoughts about sampling and artists’ rights. Write a short essay arguing for or against the proposition “sampling is stealing.”
4. To explore European hip-hop and cross-cultural influences further, listen to these Global Music Shows:

*Rap and the Riots in France*

*Nederhop: Hip-Hop from the Netherlands*

*Nachahmer Rock*