

Statements to accompany the PhD thesis

# Musical Topophilia

*A critical analysis of contemporary music tourism*

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- 1) Music tourism – visiting a place because of a connection with music – is driven by ‘musical topophilia’: the affective attachment to place through and with music (*this dissertation*).
- 2) Listening to music stimulates the imagination of place through four ‘mediations’, through which music is connected to specific place identities (*this dissertation*).
- 3) Knowledge of soundscapes can illuminate music (*this dissertation*).
- 4) Through visiting places tourists can experience proximity to the otherwise more abstract nature of music. In this way, music functions as a social and affective resource to ‘locate’ oneself amidst multiple kinds of mobility and displacement. (*this dissertation*).
- 5) Instead of conceptualizing music tourism as pilgrimage or nostalgia, it is more productive to analyze when, how, why and by whom these labels are applied (*this dissertation*).
- 6) Music tourism should be taken seriously, because it is a growing billion-dollar industry that is becoming increasingly institutionalized, and because music tourism is an excellent prism to study cultural developments and processes of social in- and exclusion.
- 7) Whereas attention is often paid to the visual nature of media culture and tourism, the study of music offers a valuable aural perspective that allows exploring dimensions of experience that are often overlooked.
- 8) The paradox of studying music is that the enjoyment of music often stems from an experience that is beyond description, while the challenge of research is to put into words and logic sequence that which is unspeakable, that which seems beyond apprehension, and that which challenges us the most.
- 9) Music is not special, unique or mysterious in and of itself. It is special, unique and/or mysterious to people in specific times, places and circumstances, and it is the way music’s uniqueness is constructed and articulated that should be the object of study.
- 10) Research into pleasurable phenomena should be held in the same esteem as the study of social, cultural and spatial problems, since fun can tell as much about *la condition humaine* as failure.
- 11) ‘Every song needs the name of a town, (and) something to eat’ – *Tom Waits*