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"Sons of Northern Darkness": Heathen Influences in Black Metal and Neofolk Music

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The focus of this article is on the influence of heathenism on popular music, specifically on Black Metal and Neofolk. These scenes, which are converging — something which is interesting in itself as purely musical similarities are non-existent — are heavily influenced by heathen notions, and have the ability to function as “cultural systems” providing sets of ideology, meanings, and aesthetics. Thus, they comprise more than simply “musical styles.” The appeal of heathenism in these scenes can be explained as a search for mainstream exotic rejected knowledge, which makes it attractive in the quest for authenticity and rebellion inherent in the genre. In time it is precisely the inclusion of heathen elements which provides the possibility to construct meaning systems

cultural complex.

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