Dreaming and the Didgeridoo – The Way of Life Among the Aborigines

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# Abstract

One of the oldest civilizations in the world can be found among the aboriginal Australians. This indigenous group has migrated to this region and developed over the Australian continent for over 50,000 years at this point. These people not only share genetic history with one another, but cultures, traditional values, and folklore as well. While these people comprise of various groups of native dwellers in the region, extensive cultural exchange has led them to share the same culture. One of the most important and unique parts of this culture is called “dreaming” (den Boer, 2012).

Dreamtime, or dreaming, according to the aboriginal population of Australia, is a means for the natives to explain how life came to be and the stories and the beliefs that make up the creation of everything. These stories lay the basis of the aboriginal lore and are often relayed through stories, music, and pictures. It explains what it means to be a part of their culture and informs them of the ways to live their lives and follow in the footsteps of their forefathers.

The didgeridoo, one of the oldest instruments known to man is often the instrument used by the men of the aboriginal community to tell the tales of the powers their ancestors inseminated into the soil. While there are other instruments brought into the mix as well, such as the gum leaves and the clapsticks, didgeridoo dominated the use and is still being used by the Australian aborigines during the dreaming ceremonies. They created songs to recount the history of their own lives, which also includes also tell them of the ways to heal the sick or arrest the flood. These songs are usually made up of short verses, which each line having a melodic form throughout the song. The melodies and the musical expression associated with such songs often changed with time and the region they are being performed in. Even though the melodies may have changed over time, the expression of singing made more and more contemporary, the message contained within the songs still remain intact, showing these people the way to live their life (Parker, 2003).

# References

den Boer, E. (2012). Spirit conception: Dreams in Aboriginal Australia. *Dreaming*, *22*(3), 192.

Parker, A. (2003). *Didjeridu Dreaming*. Retrieved from https://books.google.com.pk/books?id=SE11AAAACAAJ