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Pirating the Popular

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Title:
Piracy, Musical Work, and the Monosexual Concept of Creativity: Time to Do Away with an Obsolete Metaphor and Affirm the Mothership Connection?

Panel
Popular Music, Piracy and Politics

Speaker

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Abstract

The paper highlights the interrelation of the notions of piracy, musical work and genius composer. It is shown how the metaphor of the pirate requires a treasured object to steal. This object is the immaterial musical work, composed by a musical genius. Although this genius is a myth of romanticism, it is also shown how it is founded on an ancient notion of "monosexuality." This notion, it is argued, has negative consequences for composers, musicians and listeners alike. Together, the metaphors of the pirate, the genius and the work constitute a figure of thought that at the beginning of the 21st century fulfills a legitimizing function for a malfunctioning copyright. It is therefore suggested that the pirate metaphor be jettisoned along with that of the romantic genius and the immaterial musical work. In its stead the mothership

connection may be a more constructive metaphor.

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