

**An analysis of the *iskala*:
melodic patterns of the Sardinian *launeddas* dance music
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The *Launeddas* is a Sardinian triple-clarinet used to play traditional dance music. *Launeddas* dance music is orally transmitted from maestros to pupils based on the concept of *iskala*. The term *iskala* refers to a given repertory of dance music in each mode of the *launeddas* as well as to the general principle of how to play dance music: There are now nine types of *launeddas*, each utilizing a different mode and having their own repertory of dance music called *iskala*, a series of phrases or *pichiadas*. *Launeddas* players indicate various rules in performance with the expression “sonai a *iskala*” (play by *iskala*), for example, playing *pichiadas* one after another without repetition. Thus, the concept of *iskala* is concrete as well as abstract.

However the *iskala* as a repertory of dance music consisting of specific phrases is also dual in nature. In order to clarify an *iskala* in its original form, an analysis was done of an instructional *iskala* performed by the prestigious maestro Aurelio Porcu (1914-). Analysis revealed that the each *pichiada* of the *iskala* did not consist of a well-defined phrase but rather could be represented only by many phrase examples. It is supposed that all the phrases played for a *pichiada* share a common pattern. Therefore, an attempt was made to extract the archetypical pattern from all the phrases Porcu played per *pichiada*. From the result of this analysis, this paper shows that each *pichiada* of the *iskala* has its own melodic pattern used to compose and develop phrases of typical elements and motifs. It is these melodic patterns that have been transmitted as the *iskala* in dance music repertory.