

1385. Black Madonna

Backgrounds Of S. Radic

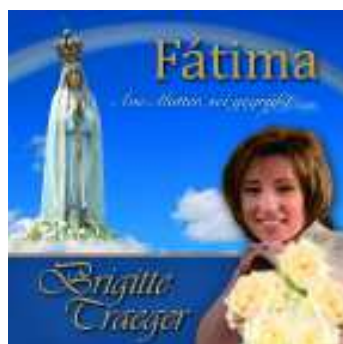
In religious art and Marian devotion, the **Black Madonna** is the image or statue of a Madonna whose face is black. This can be attributed either to black painting or to the use of black wood or stone. Black Madonnas were and are revered by large sections of the faithful as particularly miraculous.

In the 20th century, attempts were made to trace the black colour back to the ancient black goddesses as possible precursors of the Black Madonna. It has been proved that the type of the Black Goddess was the basis of many ancient cults. For thousands of years fertility, mother and earth goddesses have been worshipped, which in some cases were black (see Alma mater, Great Mother). In the triangle Anatolia - Egypt - Mesopotamia the cult of the goddesses Kybele, Astarte, Isis and Ishtar was widespread. From there the tradition continued in a western direction with Artemis, Demeter and Ceres, and in an eastern direction with the black goddess Kali. It is possible that the goddesses Freya and Ana, worshipped in the Germanic and Celtic world - the latter is especially associated with Saint Anne in Brittany - were also role models for the Black Madonnas. In the end, research does not regard the Christian Black Madonnas, like the cult of Mary, as an independent phenomenon in its own right, but as part of this general, millennia-old tradition.

Poland is the "most Catholic" country in Europe, 95 percent of the 38 million inhabitants belong to the Roman Catholic Church - and Czestochowa is its absolute centre. However, the National Shrine par excellence is the Marian Shrine of Jasna Gora (Clear Mountain) with the "Black Madonna". The place of pilgrimage is the annual destination of millions of pilgrims from all over the world. Her destination: the Black Madonna.



Brigitte Traeger (*1973) is a German singer of folk music. As believers she dedicates herself with enthusiasm to various church motifs in her music, of which almost all of her recordings bear witness. To her latest album "We are going to the Mother of Grace", where the beautiful song "Black Madonna" can also be found, she herself says the following:... "We are going to the Mother of Grace", it is heard year after year when pilgrims make their way to the Mother of God. For some years now I have been part of this great group of pilgrims. It is always an experience. I like to compare the pilgrimage with our lives. We all need a goal to give life meaning. Every path begins with the first step....Big - even small stones can bring us down by our carelessness. In the community, however, some hurdles are easier to overcome"...



6/8-Beat (T=80)

The musical score is written for four instruments: Strings, Guitar, Bass, and Drums. It is in 6/8 time with a tempo of T=80. The score is divided into two main sections: Main 1 and Main 2. Main 1 (Measures 1-4) features a chord-decomposing accompaniment where the strings and guitar play eighth notes, the bass plays a long, sustained line, and the drums play a pattern of HH (hi-hat) and Tamb. (tambourine). Main 2 (Measures 5-8) features a more active accompaniment where the strings and guitar play eighth chords, the bass becomes more agile, and the drums play a strong disco snare drum sound (DSD).

Programming instruction

A 6/8 beat is no ordinary "slow rock", as you might expect from the bar. Nevertheless, these style directions are confusingly similar - and could of course also be adopted as standards! In the case of this here presented, "title-related", 6/8-Beats, one sees at first sight from the scheme that Main 1 has a chord decomposing accompaniment, that the bass is very "long" due to the binding - and in the drum part only the tambourine sounds as seconds! Clear case: Main 1 is played in the verse part, where the song text is important and only comes along with rudimentary accompaniment. In Main 2, which sounds in the chorus, both the guitar and the strings take over the eighth chords, the bass also becomes a lot more agile and in the drum part the "DSD" even sounds: The strong DISCO-SNARE drum, which can be found on note D - and if it is still too weak, then please change the drum kit!