

## **Pure Folk Metal: Hybridization of Musical Styles in Folk Metal Band Eluveitie**

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Eluveitie, a Swiss folk metal band that connects themselves to the ancient Helvetians, regularly uses Irish, Scottish, and Breton folk melodies. Although Eluveitie performs on tin whistle, violin, bagpipes, and hurdy-gurdy, they incorporate folk music idioms into a decidedly metal texture, with drums, electric guitar, and driving metal rhythms. Through close analysis of their 2008 album *Slania*, I examine the hybridization between two stylistic codes, folk music and metal.

I show how folk melodies and concepts are incorporated into Eluveitie's music, and how that borrowing reflects the way they view themselves in relation to the folk traditions they choose to use. Eluveitie recasts folk melodies by translating them into modes more common to metal, eliminating elisions that complicate the meter, and adjusting rhythmic details in order to strengthen the sense of each downbeat.

Even though Eluveitie draws from folk and metal tradition, their music does not completely inhabit the stylistic codes of either genre. Neither do they conform to dominant ideologies of authenticity in metal or folk traditions. Instead, by appealing to the mysticism of ancient Celtic symbols and bridging two musical genres, Eluveitie taps into metal ideas of power and folk concepts of heritage and nationality.