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*Panel 2.6: The Global Village Soundscape: A Matrix of Cultural Encounters*

**Cultural and Personal Relocation: Music and Identity Today**

In today's world where people move from place to place for economic, social and political reasons—among many others—we see how boundaries are re-negotiated and how individuals come together to establish contexts for their cultural and personal continuity and stability. Music and musicians are some of the most important factors in this relocation of self and identity, with multiple layers of significance, both individual as well as shared among group members. Music in these new ethno-acoustic worlds re-positions the home culture, for others music helps build a re-interpreted identity, while others find that music, either traditional or popular styles, helps them connect with their new cultural neighbors. This paper considers how music in the global world is perhaps the most responsive and flexible cultural expression and in particular, what that means for everyone who engages in music making.