

throughout the Balkans. For decades Serbs, Serbian Roma, Bosnian Muslims, Greeks, Macedonians, Albanians and Turks have laid claim to the song as their own. A new documentary examines the roots of the anthem, finding in it an apt metaphor for a deeply divided region, where music is just another battlefield for competing ethnic claims. The film, "Whose Is This Song?" has been shown in Western Europe, India, Turkey, Lebanon and Bosnia; this month it airs on Serb TV.

Adela Peeva, the film's Bulgarian director, takes the viewer on what should be an innocuous journey. Not so. In Bulgaria, an old man tells Peeva that anyone who suggests the song is Turkish should be killed. And in Serbia, she narrowly avoids a beating at the hands of a group of drunken men after she



OFF KEY. One of the many claimants

plays them a Muslim version from Bosnia. In the end, her findings are inconclusive; the song's roots have been obscured by time. Sadly, though, the anthem's story is a powerful reminder of how deeply mutual hatred and suspicion still pervade the region. —ZORAN CIRJAKOVIC

FILM

Name That Tune, OK?

THE BEST SONGS MAKE make you feel—tears, happiness, nostalgia. Few tunes, though, inspire passion like "Uskudar," the Turkish name of a folk melody beloved