

## **STATEMENT**

**by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsanimir Lyubomirov Baichev,**

on the dissertation titled:

**PERFORMING WORKS BY KOSOVO COMPOSERS AT FESTIVALS OF CLASSICAL  
MUSIC (From 2000 to 2018) by**

**Ismet Bexheti**

for obtaining the educational and scientific degree of Doctor

Professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art;

Doctoral programme: independent,

Programme/Department of Music

### **Details about the PhD candidate**

Ismet Bexheti graduated from the Public University of North Macedonia, Skopje, Macedonia in 2017. He was a member of the Board of Directors of Kosovo's Public Broadcaster-RTK during 2012-2018 and founder and director of Zeri I Kumanoves Radio and Television, Kumanovo, North Macedonia during 1993-1998.

He has his own original music, created 110 songs, recorded 8 albums of pop-folk songs, wrote music for 4 documentaries and was a member of professional jury of several famous festivals.

### **PhD, dissertation, abstract and publication data**

The dissertation has been discussed and proposed for public defence by the Faculty of Music of the New Bulgarian University with the protocol No. 1 of 02.07.2024.

The procedure complies with the requirements of the Law on the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees at the Bulgarian University.

The scientific work consists of an introduction, three chapters, conclusions and contributions, references and links with a total length of 160 pages. Of these, 156 pages are the main body of the paper and 4 pages are the reference list and links.

The abstract is correctly prepared according to the requirements and provides sufficient information about the thesis.

There are 6 scientific publications that are directly related to the topic of the thesis.

The doctoral candidate has fulfilled the minimum national requirements of the normative documents for obtaining the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor".

### **Research contributions**

The contributions are divided into six areas and register the extract of the arguments presented.

1. In the presented dissertation, for the first time, the classical music festivals in Kosovo and the possibilities of participation of works by Kosovo composers in the period 2000-2018 were investigated. The sources of the research were the archives of the festivals, both printed materials (published) and information on their official websites. Interviews were conducted with organisers (online or in official media) that festivals use to inform the public and market the events. Printed and electronic brochures about the festivals were collected.

2. An analysis of the collected information showed that there are significant differences in terms of classical music in Kosovo before the mentioned period and after 2000, but there is also a continuation of traditions. The works of Kosovar composers have traditionally occupied an important place, and the performance of such works is often obligatory within these events, even for artists and ensembles coming from outside Kosovo. Since 2000, there has been an intensive expansion of leading international festivals of national culture (the subject of this study). The focus of the festivals analysed is on the promotion and presentation of works by Kosovo composers.

3. The characteristics of the festivals are discussed in chronological order: the Kosovar KamerFest, ReMusica, the DAM Festival and the Chopin Piano Festival. Over the years there has been a tendency to introduce stylistic, technical and artistic innovations, but each festival has

always maintained its own physiognomy. All festivals, in addition to the performance activities, develop many non-performance activities that have an educational and informative function, which is more than necessary for Kosovo.

4. The quantitative and qualitative method used for the analysis of the study confirms the hypothesis that classical music festivals in Kosovo are an important forum for the presentation of works by Kosovo composers. The numerical index and the percentage of works of composers in general and of Kosovo composers in particular, as well as of performers from 2011 to 2018, also prove this thesis.

5. There are great differences between the festivals in terms of the inclusion of Kosovo composers in their programmes. In this respect, ReMusica clearly leads with 127 composers over the period, which means a very large space for Kosovo classical music and especially for the realisation of young composers. The ReMusica festival has performed the highest number of works by Kosovo composers - 135. At the DAM festival, the number of works by Kosovo composers was 72. At the Chopin Piano Festival, only 19 works were performed, and at the Kosova KamerFest, the number of works performed was even lower.

6. It is clear from these data that the festivals (Kosova KamerFest, Chopin Piano Fest, DAM Festival and ReMusica) try to stick to their programming concept in terms of continuity, which is a motivation for Kosovar composers. The festivals support and commission new world premieres, which motivates composers of the younger generation in particular.

The dissertation draws strong conclusions, which are very important for the musical culture in Kosovo:

- The annual cooperation of the festivals with the Kosovo Philharmonic Orchestra (which has supported these festivals from the beginning), as well as with the Kosovo Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra and Choir, is not sufficient, which makes these festivals suitable primarily for chamber music. The reason for this is the lack of suitable venues, i.e. there are no infrastructural conditions for the performance of larger and large-scale musical stage works - operas, ballets, etc. The institutions need to start building an opera and ballet hall as soon as possible, which is lacking in Pristina, Kosovo.

- Financial support for classical music festivals comes mainly from the Ministry of Sports and Culture and the Municipality of Pristina (where all the festivals are held). There are inconsistencies or other bureaucratic reasons that sometimes jeopardise their implementation and necessitate budget cuts. There is a need to find a fair and secure way of providing support that will lead to stable funding and larger festivals. This will help to improve their quality, as well as increase the motivation of Kosovo composers.

### **Conclusion**

Ismet Bexheti's dissertation is original in its nature. The aim of this dissertation - to study classical music festivals in Kosovo and to prove the presence of works by Kosovar composers in classical music concerts in Kosovo - has been achieved. Acknowledging the merits and usefulness of the research, **I confidently propose to the scientific jury that Ismet Bexheti be awarded the educational and scientific degree of Doctor.**

25.06.2024. Statement prepared:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsanimir Baichev