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Translation from Bulgarian

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Ivan Stoyanov Dimitrov,

professor of bass guitar in Pop and Jazz Art Department,

National Academy of Music “Prof. Pancho Vladigerov”,

professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art,

about the PhD thesis on

“New areas of exploration in 21st century instrument invention and its effects on musical composition”

by Liburn Jupolli,

doctoral student in the Music Department of

NEW BULGARIAN UNIVERSITY,

scientific supervisor Prof. Dr. Simo Lazarov,

for awarding the educational and scientific degree of Doctor

in scientific speciality “Musicology and music art”, professional field 8.3

Liburn Jupolli became interested in composition at the age of 12, and at the age of 16 he began his first work in theatrical production, recording the music for the production of "ODA Theatre". For 15 years he has worked with 60 theatre productions, films and animation in the Balkans in Europe and India. While working in the entertainment industry, he actively wrote original music for various instrumentalists and ensembles in Europe and the United States. Apart from composition, the doctoral student is interested in musical innovations and the development of education and new technologies. In 2010 he invented the microtonal musical instrument Octo,

which is presented in the Balkans and in Europe. He obtained a master's degree in music in Paris, focusing entirely on the development of musical instruments at **CRI - Center de Recherche Interdisciplinaire - Paris Descartes**. Since 2018, he has been a lecturer at the University of Business and Technology, where he is the founder of the first Faculty of Modern Music in Kosovo in 2019 and the Centre for Contemporary Music Research. He is the founder of MAGMUS Publishing House and the director of the Centre for Contemporary Music, Digital Design and Management at **UBT University** in Pristina, Kosovo.

The PhD thesis consists of **159** pages and is structured into an introduction, **7** chapters, conclusion, reference to the main contributions of the dissertation, publications on the topic, creative autobiography and bibliography containing **150** figures and **87** titles in the Latin characters.

Liburn Jupolli very comprehensively analyses the different methods and techniques of composition developed from the twentieth century to the present day, and in addition to electronics he uses and designs his own musical instruments and accessories that help him achieve new sound nuances. At the same time, the solo musical instrument "**Octo**", which he invented, designed to serve as an expressive means of creating new music, proved to be a challenge for technical adaptation that broadened the horizons of composition in areas such as microtonality and spatiality. **Octo's** microtonal range is important for many instrumentalists and requires training with special guidance and information on micro-intervals, as the successful mastering of the pitch structure, positioning and harmonic structure with such a microtonal range is relatively unknown. The idea and the process of implementation of **Octo** are studied in detail, as well as the ways of its setting, the body, the fingerboard, the specialized 8 output adapters, the potentiometers for corrections and the sound volume. The doctoral student dwells in great detail on the development of the authorial microtonal notation, the imitation of maqams, the imitation of the South Indian frets of Melakarta, as well as the **Octo** scale itself and its application. The process related to the invention of musical instruments of a new type, **such as Octo**, which have the qualities of spatiality in performance and are found mainly in electroacoustic music, has been studied in detail. Conceived as a hybrid instrument containing more than 10 instruments in one, **Octo** follows the connection and combination of tonal possibilities between Albanian and Balkan

musical instruments and the author directs us to other cultural areas in the field of music and musical instruments.

1. I consider a valuable contribution of the PhD thesis the development of an innovative system for the synthesis of microtonal tones in spatial acoustics and musical performance, enabling the imitation of string instruments of different nationalities and cultures, based on the doctoral student's own practical experience and experimental work. The effectiveness of this system in its theoretical and applied nature has been scientifically proven.

2. An eight-channel Octo musical instrument with eight outputs has been invented, which make it possible to partition each string into a separate channel (for sound recording) or into a separate amplifier, and its efficiency has been scientifically proven.

What has been said so far gives me sufficient grounds to give a positive assessment of the PhD thesis and I recommend to the esteemed scientific jury to award Liburn Jupolli the scientific and educational degree of Doctor.

Prof. Dr. Ivan Stoyanov

22. 10. 2020

I, the undersigned Venceslava Mishlyakova hereby certify the truth of the translation made by me from Bulgarian language to English language of the enclosed document Opinion. The translation consists of 3 pages.

Translator:

