

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Adrian Georgiev

Subject: Dissertation for the award of
educational and scientific degree Doctor
on the topic

“YOUTH CHOIRS IN TURKEY IN THE LATE 20TH CENTURY AND
THE EARLY 21ST CENTURY – PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES”

by METE GÖKÇE

The dissertation was assessed and approved for defense at a meeting of the Department of Music – NBU, held on January 15, 2021. The paper is written in English and consists of an introduction, five chapters with relevant subchapters, and a conclusion in total of 167 pages of body text, including images, tables and documentary photographs. The cited literature includes 35 titles in Turkish and English. The research supervisor of the dissertation is Prof. Yavor Konov, to whom at the beginning of the dissertation Mete Gökçe expresses special gratitude for his attitude and support, as well as for his training in the doctoral program of the Department of Music at NBU.

The dissertation aims to develop proposals for the development of youth choirs, revealing the situation of youth choirs in Turkey in the late 20th and early 21st century, as well as to shed light on the difficulties they have gone through. According to Mr. Mete Gökçe, it is important to present the reflections and results of the data obtained in the National Youth Choir "100 Voices" for the choral music of the country (Republic of Turkey). In this sense, the purpose of the study is stated, namely "*... by studying the projects of the "100 Voices" National Youth Choir and reviewing the results, the problems and proposals for solutions in the field of Turkish choral music were presented..*". The research is defined by the author as a contribution both to the scientific literature and to meeting the practical requirements of choral music in Turkey by determining its historical

development and the status of its youth choirs, revealing related problems and offering suggestions for possible solutions. . The research is especially important for presenting how youth choirs in Turkey were systematically founded, the spread of youth choirs in choral structures in general, their educational models and roles in formal education, the diversity of choral performance and part of what structure they are. For this reason, the study is important for revealing the general situation of youth choirs and illuminating perspectives for them, as well as for creating a comprehensive bibliography of Turkish choral music, for the benefit of its researchers. (Significance of the study).

Chapter One – ASSESSMENT OF THE HISTORY OF CHOIR RESEARCH IN TURKEY FROM 1970 TO THE BEGINNING OF THE 21ST CENTURY examines the history of Turkish choral music, traditional Turkish Palace (court) music, traditional Turkish folk music, traditional unison singing collective unison singing in religious traditions and practices in Turkey, subjective and objective preconditions for creating choirs in Turkey, Janissary music, the influence of Western musical traditions on Ottoman music, music during the era of the Republic of Turkey and the influence of European choral culture on development of choral creativity in Turkey.

Chapter Two, TYPES OF CHOIR SINGING IN TURKEY IN THE 20TH CENTURY, offers a thorough analysis of the place and role of music and choral education in the curricula, functions and targets of school choirs, as well as a study of common concert types and structures of school choirs, the training and leadership of school choirs and music teachers. The types of choirs and their organization, choir associations, concerts, festivals and in the most general sense types of choral education - in primary, secondary and higher education - are classified. A special place is given to educational methods and forms in choral conducting in the Republic of Turkey, pedagogical faculties, departments of music, conservatories, departments of choral conducting and choral singing at universities. The research also includes training in choral conducting through the School of 100 Voices, the certification program in artistic choral conducting at the University of Bahçeşehir, the Academy of Young Choral Conductors, master classes in choral conducting at the State Mixed Choir at the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Turkey. At the end of Chapter Two, information is given

about the leading contemporary Turkish choral conductors. After a thorough analysis, Mete Gökçe expressed his opinion that traditional vocal ensembles and polyphonic choirs were created mainly for various public associations. Youth vocal ensembles, formed in a rather traditional structure, are more common, and polyphonic choirs, working mainly within state institutions, are less common. The choral culture, which is formed within the educational system in Turkey, is important. In this regard, the 14 choir festivals operating in Turkey play a role in revealing the need for choral music education and development at all ages and in demonstrating their important mission to address the lack of academic choral education. In this context, it is established that the path followed by young people who would like to develop in the field of choral music and to be educated and trained as choral conductors in academic standards, continues to be their training and participation in various conducting courses in Turkey and Europe.

In the third chapter of the dissertation EVALUATION OF TURKISH CHOIR MUSIC THROUGH STYLES IN THE 20TH CENTURY are presented choral works (a cappella and with accompaniment) of different vocalization, created by contemporary Turkish composers, mentioned in the book "Turkish composers" by Ersin Antep, Turkish musicologist, as well as works by Turkish composers, choral works with accompaniment, and vocal works for other types of choirs.

In the fourth chapter, PROBLEMS OF YOUTH CHOIRS AND OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN TURKEY AT THE END OF THE 20TH AND THE BEGINNING OF THE 21ST CENTURY presents and analyzes the general music education, which according to the author aims to provide a minimum of culture. necessary for a healthy and balanced "human life", regardless of profession, school, department, direction and program. In this respect, the youth choirs formed in the general music education appear as school choirs that work in high schools, led by the music teacher. Amateur music education is aimed at those who are interested in music or have ambition and inclination to a certain style of music. Its purpose is to ensure effective musical participation, enthusiasm and satisfaction and to achieve the necessary musical behavior to maintain and develop it to the highest possible degree. Vocational music education

is aimed at people who have a certain level of musical talent and who choose the field of music or one of its branches as a future profession related to this industry. Its purpose is to ensure musical attitude and accumulation of relevant habits required by the job or profession. In this context, when Mete Gökçe examines the choirs mentioned above in the 3 different types of music education and examines the programs of the four most visited choir festivals in Turkey in 2019, he finds that a total of 30 youth choirs perform in accordance with the international choral. academic and social standard. The main problem of youth choirs in Turkey is related to the repertoire and repertoire culture. Choral conductors who have not previously sung in a choir do not know the variety of choral works and do not know the repertory technical requirements. They try to build their repertoire without considering the technical capabilities of their choirs; they try to force singers to perform selected choral works; they do not follow the established repertoire in choral music and prefer to download works from the Internet. A common drawback is the reluctance to spend money on ordering original scores of the desired works. A significant drawback is the lack of music publishing in Turkey.

In conclusion, I can say that I agree with the contributions expressed by the author in the dissertation, noting the most important in my opinion, ones:

- The subject of study is the history of youth choirs in Turkey in the last 30 - 40 years; the importance of choirs as an educational tool for young people is being commented on. Lists of choral conductors, composers and choral works in chronological order have been compiled on the basis of the author's selection and analytical commentary.
- The choirs have been studied and classified, as well as the creation and realization of a repertoire suitable for the respective types of choirs.
- The research puts an emphasis on the role of music teachers in the creation, leadership, performances, overall activities and their impact on Turkish society - a society with a high percentage of young people.

- The main innovative solution to the problems presented in the dissertation is the one-of-a-kind organization 100 Voices National Choir School created by the author, which is considered as a model of effective problem solving and perspective for the development of youth choral music in the country.

Taking into account all of the above, I propose to the esteemed scientific panel to award Mete Gökçe the educational and scientific degree "DOCTOR" 8.3. Music and Dance.

22.04.2021

Signature: