

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Ivan Stoyanov Dimitrov,
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for the dissertation of
Teodor Todorov Popov

"ELECTRONIC SOUND DESIGN AND ITS APPLICATIONS IN DJING"

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professional field 8. 3 “Music and Dance Art”

Teodor Popov was born on 11.09.1987 in Plovdiv. In his school years he graduated from a musical school with a specialization in classical guitar and was a soloist of a high school mixed choir, actively participating in numerous concerts and choral festivals. He completed his higher education - Bachelor's degree in Computer Technology with specialization in Computer Music and a Master's degree in Sound Engineering at New Bulgarian University in Sofia. Teodor Popov works as a sound engineer at Bulgarian National Radio – Regional radio station Plovdiv, where he has realized numerous concert and studio broadcasts. He composes his own music and performs as a freelance artist. He organizes and participates as a DJ in numerous public events and competitions.

The dissertation consists of **234** pages and is structured as follows: an introduction, 5 chapters, a conclusion, a reference to the main contributions of the dissertation, publications on the topic, a creative autobiography and a bibliography containing 158 items, 13 tables, 38 titles in Cyrillic, 9 titles in Latin and 179 internet-based sources.

Teodor Popov very comprehensively analyses the logical means of

knowledge that satisfy the requirements for describing the empirical characteristics of DJing and electronic sound design, and in the introduction he points out the reasons that have given rise to new demands for increasingly high-quality sound engineering. The role of electronic sound design as a revolutionary innovation in music resulting from the qualitatively new technology of sound production is ably outlined.

The Ph.D. student explores the specific issues in detail in the individual chapters of the thesis and applies definitions by describing methods of exploring the subject over time that reveal the nature of the first and second generations of electronic musical instrumentarium, DJ techniques and the nature of electronic sound design. Special attention in the work is paid to the characteristics of sound related to the physic-acoustic and electro-acoustic process as a prerequisite for the improvement of devices producing and modeling sound components in musical instruments capable of creating and reproducing sound taking into consideration spectral characteristics such as frequency, amplitude, phase and their modulation.

The topic of creating the desired electronic sound design in the music event space as a composition of unique sounds and noises, related to the creative activity of the DJ in terms of the development of electronic and computer music, is very extensively considered, so that it empowers the artist not only to know and use its technical characteristics, but also through the method of synthesis to create completely new musical forms. The analysed aspects of the development of DJing reveal technical innovations as the basis and the reason for its emergence, as with their application it transfers and combines in hardware and software the old, classical methods of making music, transforming them through digital technologies and computer systems into part of the music of our time. Creating in the event space the desired electronic sound design is an important component for forming a suitable emotional environment for communication and an essential result in the creative activity of the DJ, and has contributed to

the emergence of radically new musical forms in recent decades by helping to develop the musical taste of young people and introducing them into the modern music culture.

The dissertation discusses the features and forms of manifestations of electronic sound design and DJing as a practical activity. In DJing, the growth of the presenter is realized and traced, from reproducing musical works with a turntable to creating original productions with computers, elevating the DJ to an artist capable of saturating the space with a unique electronic sound and expanding the musical boundaries, reaching a new level of development in terms of composition and performance. In practice, the DJs, through the sonic art called DJing, have established themselves as a contemporary factor in the art of music.

I consider the research related to electronic sound design in the process of sound unfolding and its manifestation in different forms and the factors for its improvement, as well as the dependencies of technical and technological innovations in the field of music art and their relationship with DJing in their reproductive creative musical activity integrating art with engineering as a valuable contribution of this dissertation.

The dissertation is well structured, logically justified and represents a complete scientific study.

From what I have said so far, taking into account the overall research, I believe that I have sufficient grounds to give a positive assessment of the dissertation and recommend the distinguished scientific jury to award to Teodor Todorov Popov the scientific and educational degree "DOCTOR" in the professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art.

Prof. Dr. Ivan Stoyanov

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