

STATEMENT

by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rositsa Dimitrova Becheva,**

New Bulgarian University,

on the thesis of **Theodoros Haridis,**

professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art,

PhD candidate at New Bulgarian University,

on the topic:

CHAMBER OPERA "LA KROPIA":

HISTORY OF CREATION AND MUSICAL ANALYSIS

(The work is based on the book "**In the Zone of Smoke and Anemones**" by **Ioannis**

Profis in (4) four poetic images")

for the award of the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy**

Research supervisor. **Prof. Elisaveta Valchinova-Chendova**

Biographical data:

Theodoros Haridis was born in Athens. He began his musical studies in National Conservatory of Athens, where he studied Composition and Orchestration. He graduated with a Master's degree in Composition at the NMA "prof. Pancho Vladigerov", Sofia, Bulgaria - in the class of

Alexander Raichev.

Throughout the years of his artistic career he has worked with renowned artists in

Greece and abroad, participated in festivals and concerts, wrote music for several documentary films, his works have been broadcast on Greek radio, developed active teaching. He is a member of the Union of Greek Composers.

He is a doctoral candidate at New Bulgarian University, Sofia.

Contents of the dissertation

The dissertation is 126 pages long, including 122 pages of text with music examples, abstract, introduction, conclusions, interview with Ioannis Profis, contributions and bibliography. A biography of the author, Theodoros Haridis, and a the score of the opera La Kropia are included.

In the course of the exposition, the doctoral candidate outlines the main aim of the research: the dissertation explores the author's work, i.e. the chamber opera "LA KROPIA" ("La KROPIA") - history of creation and musical analysis; the tasks are formulated: examining the conception and the main ideas of the composition "which are aimed at bringing technical compositional solutions from the past into the present", examining "the influence that the end result of the creativity of the past has on the psychological attitude and emotions of the audience in the fragments in which elements of the past are part of the present", preparing a musical analysis of the opera in terms of its structure and harmonic plan.

The doctoral student's motivation for choosing the topic reflects his teaching experience over the years and the desire to optimize the pedagogical process through the application of new approaches of work.

The doctoral candidate stresses that "through the findings of the analysis, the research exposes the the attractiveness of the implementation of similar projects, as well as the predictable

links of tradition in the application of compositional-technical techniques of the past in present in solutions that benefit listeners in terms of their positive perception. The result of negative affectivity (creating a stress) in the everyday life of the modern age and the positive psychological attitude during and after listening to the opera".

In this regard, the centre of the work is the analysis of the chamber opera *La Kropia* (Chapter 6), which is also a kind of self-reflection of the author's and doctoral student's pedagogical visions.

In Chapter 3, which provides a step-by-step introduction to the problems of the thesis, Greek opera composers are presented in a historical context, including: (Spyros Xyndas, Pavlos Carrer, Manolis Kalomiris, Dionysios Lavragas, Marios Varvoglis - with an emphasis on the stylistic characteristics of their work.

Of particular importance for me is Chapter 4 - an interview with Ioannis Profis, in which, through the method of the interview, the author traces the philosophical search of the librettist of the opera, his own vision of poetic imagery in the book "In the Zone of Smoke and Anemones" by Ioannis Profis in (4) four poetic images", the message it conveys, the main sources of inspiration within his work and the personalities who have been influential in shaping it over the years. In this chapter are present biographical data and information about the works of Profis.

Chapter 5 - Libretto of '*La Kropia*' - presents the characteristics of the literary basis of the opera: the storyline, the unfolding of the poetic imagery in the individual scenes.

I would like to highlight as a contribution Chapter 6 - the content centre of the of the study, which has a strong theoretical and practical orientation.

The PhD student explains that: 'the titles of the scenes are taken from the book by the author Ioannis Profis, and due to the fact that the librettist-poet calls the parts in his book images, he considers the name 'poetic image' to be appropriate and particularly conditional for any scene that takes place throughout the chamber opera *La Kropia*.

This chapter presents a detailed musical analysis of the chamber opera La Kropia: formal-structural, metrical features of the work, harmonic language, instrumentation and orchestration. The content of the chapter also directs attention to the essence of interpretation.

The conclusion summarizes the most important conclusions from the individual parts of the of the study, the recommendations, the contributions.

Significance of the research problem in scientific and applied terms

- The author's personal experience is shared - in theoretical and practical terms.
- An innovative pedagogical approach is presented - the possibility of educational and pedagogical interaction through the means of opera.

Degree of knowledge of the state of the problem and compliance of the employed literature

The doctoral candidate used sufficient information sources, the reference to which is correct.

Contributions of the dissertation

I accept the contributions of the doctoral thesis, including:

- "Tracing the possibilities of preserving the traditions of the genre, called chamber opera, as well as expanding and enriching the repertoire of this form."
- "Chamber opera is presented as an alternative model of production in small towns."
- "In relation to the education of young people, and especially students in

secondary schools (high schools and special schools), the project is proposed "Creation of Chamber Opera", through which they have the opportunity to get acquainted with this musical work."

Assessment of the relevance of the abstract to the main points and contributions of the thesis

The 23-page abstract conveys the character of the doctoral work.

Opinions, recommendations and comments

My recommendations with regard to the dissertation presented are with regard to its future publication: the libretto of the opera 'La Kropia' could be published in the Appendices.

In conclusion:

I give my positive evaluation to the dissertation of Theodoros Haridis: Chamber Opera "LA KROPIA": History of the Creation and Musical Analysis (The work is based on the book "In the Zone of Smoke and Anemones" by Ioannis Profis in (4) four poetic images"), in relation to the bearing of his contributions with scientific and applied qualities. I consider that the dissertation work of the PhD candidate fully meets the requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree of Doctor of Arts in the professional field 8.3 "Music and Dance Art". under the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria and propose to the the esteemed scientific jury to award it to him.

07.06.2023, Sofia

Assoc. Prof. Rositsa Becheva