

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Milena Shushulova-Pavlova, New Bulgarian University,

Music Department - professional field 8.3 Music and dance art,

for the dissertation of **Trifon Velikov Trifonov**

PhD student at NBU, with supervisor: Prof. Dr. Georgi Arnaudov

on the topic:

STYLE AND INTERPRETATION PROBLEMS IN WORKS FOR WIND ORCHESTRA

BY NIKOLAY BRATANOV, JULES LEVY AND HRISTO TONEV

for awarding educational and scientific degree "DOCTOR"

in professional field 8.3 Music and dance art

The dissertation examines several works for brass band by Nikolay Bratanov, Jules Levy and Hristo Tonev - current-sounding works, some of them built on themes from Bulgarian folklore, included in the repertoire of contemporary Bulgarian brass bands. **The object** of attention are problems of stylistic and interpretive nature when working with works for brass band by Bulgarian composers, considered specifically on the examples of the works of Jules Levy, Hristo Tonev and Nikolay Bratanov. **The subject** of the research are the works written for brass band by Jules Levy, Nikolay Bratanov and Hristo Tonev, analyzing four works: "Pirin Rhapsody", "Rodina", "Holiday in Graovo - song and dance for bagpipe and brass band" and "Choral". **The Goal** of the dissertation is to analyze what was written for brass band by the three composers, by understanding the stylistics and issues in the interpretation of works to offer solutions to problems related to the formation of the repertoire of student, amateur and professional brass bands in Bulgaria. . The following **research tasks** are set:

1) To study the prerequisites for the emergence and development of the brass band in Bulgaria.

2) To gather information and evidence about the founding in 1901 of the Brass Band at the mine in Pernik.

3) To look for the original scores of the works included in the development.

4) To search for recordings and other materials documenting concerts with works by the three composers.

5) To make an interpretive analysis of the works included in the research.

6) To define and consider the conductor's problems related to the style and interpretation of the works by Nikolay Bratanov, Jules Levy and Hristo Tonev.

7) To introduce and comment on the point of view of the composer, orchestrator, conductor and scholar Hristo Tonev through an interview with him.

Significance of the researched problem in scientific and scientific-applied relation

The relevance of this work is necessitated by the need for new marches, choirs and modern-sounding pieces for brass band to give direction to the work of young conductors of these ensembles. One of **the main issues** is the formation of the image of brass bands in Bulgaria through the performance of works by established Bulgarian composers who wrote works specifically for wind ensembles. The attention paid to the number, instruments, repertoire, as well as to the stylistic

and interpretive issues arising from working with a brass band, the analyzes of the works would give sufficient knowledge for those entering the profession of brass band conductor or conductor and leader of such a group. Not only in Bulgaria. The conclusions made and the proposed solutions will help in shaping the repertoire of student, amateur and professional brass bands in Bulgaria, and will provide guidance in the interpretation of works by Bulgarian composers

Degree of knowledge of the state of the problem and correspondence of the used literature

The dissertation is inspired and encouraged personally by Hristo Tonev and is the result of close friendship and long-term cooperation (more than 13 years) between him and PhD student Trifon Trifonov. The approach to the considered works is first of all from the point of view of their musical interpretation, and the conductor's work. The goals and tasks set in the scientific development, related to the scientific tasks, have been fulfilled. The results of the study have been realized. By researching scientific and musical literature, recordings and performed works, through interviews and conversations, recording videos with Hristo Tonev, and archival units from the State Archives of Pernik, the doctoral student has defended his doctoral thesis.

Research methodology

The study is conducted comprehensively. The methodology includes formal and interpretive analysis of works for brass band. The methods for the whole research are: analytical, descriptive, comparative, observation and hermeneutic.

Correctness in quoting a representative number of authors

The doctoral student is correct in his citations. He uses enough sources on which he has built and substantiated his thesis.

Contributions to the dissertation

1. For the first time a study is made, which examines the factual and analytical development of the Pernik brass band as part of the musical culture of the city.
2. The performed analyzes and conducting-musical prescriptions can be useful both for the performers and for the students in the brass-wind formations.
3. The developed thesis has the ambition to add scientific facts and to arouse interest in the ensemble playing in a brass band / ensemble, which will revive historically justified prerequisites and to provoke again the need for general and specialized musical education through and for wind instruments.
4. An interview was made, in several parts, by the conductor, public figure, pedagogue and composer Hristo Tonev, which complements the research and allows for further research. An interview was also conducted with the musician Nanyo Cholpanov, which complements the doctoral thesis with facts.
5. An example version of "Lesson for wind instruments" was made, which is a ready product and could be used by any pedagogue, as well as to make future joint performances in front of teenagers - students, high school students, children in Pernik and the surrounding area. This is an opportunity to develop a common musical culture.
6. The mentioned concert performances are an essential part of the doctoral dissertation.

7. The appendices are an essential part of the work and state the factual basis for further research.

Assessment of the compliance of the abstract with the main provisions and contributions of the dissertation.

The abstract corresponds to the dissertation and correctly conveys the nature of the doctoral thesis.

Personal qualities of the author

I have great impressions of Trifon Trifonov during his doctoral studies at NBU. He is ambitious and hardworking. Kind and on place. He supports young talents and makes projects for realization and practice of students and doctoral students from music programs at NBU.

Publications on the topic of the dissertation

The doctoral student has enough (2 in number) publications on the topic, which are included in the collection "Young Scientific Forum for Music and Dance" (2014 and 2015), and a report at the scientific conference "Young Scientific Forum" (2018). The doctoral student has an active concert activity (as a conductor of the Pernik Brass Band), which includes the considered and analyzed works in the doctoral dissertation, which can be accepted as a type of publications on the topic.

Opinions, recommendations and notes

I think that this doctoral dissertation could be published as a book with illustrations and a CD to it, so that a larger audience could get acquainted with it. It is needed by conductors and performers, as well as educators.

In conclusion, I will conclude with the following assessment:

The doctoral student meets the scientometric indicators for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", according to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The dissertation of Trifon Trifonov doctoral student at NBU, with study supervisor: Prof. Dr. Georgi Arnaudov on the topic: **STYLE AND INTERPRETATION PROBLEMS IN WORKS FOR WIND ORCHESTRA BY NIKOLAY BRATANOV, JULES LEVY AND HRISTO TONEV** together with the contributions he has made with scientific and applied qualities, his publications, I consider sufficient to give my positive assessment and to offer the esteemed scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in professional field 8.3 Music and Dance, to **Trifon Trifonov**, according to the requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

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Prof. Dr. Milena Shushulova-Pavlova