

## **OPINION**

**by**

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Trifon Trifonov's artistic activity is extremely active and rich. The brass band has played an important role in the cultural life of Pernik for many years. Under Mr. Trifonov's direction, the band has about 150 concerts and performances a year. Concerts in the "November Music Days" - Pernik, on open stages, participates in national, regional and municipal holidays and gives educational concerts. In 2014, the doctoral student led a project supporting the candidacy of Sofia and the Southwestern region for cultural capital - 2019. As a member of UBC the orchestra joined the initiative "80 years of the Danube Dance - Diko Iliev" (2017), with a concert, etc.

Famous soloists such as Kaludi Kaludov, Anna Ditre-Kaludov, Edelina Kaneva, Galya Pavlova, Elena Mehandzhiyska, Marcho Apostolov, etc. perform with the orchestra, the choirs: "Ivan Topalov", "Robev Choir", "Agape", "Rodna Pesen", YVG "Vanilla" and others.

In 2018, the brass band was awarded the Grand Prix and diplomas for best conductor, foreign orchestra and cheerleaders at the international festival-competition "Golden Trumpet" in Bielsko-Biala - Poland. It is important to note that most of the arrangements and orchestrations for the orchestra are made by Trifon Trifonov.

The creative and pedagogical work of the dissertation is from 2014 and is related to the organization, training and management of a brass band at the XVI Primary School "St. St. Cyril and Methodius ", Pernik. The student orchestra participates in all school and municipal holidays.

The reference for the scientific publications shows that the doctoral student has realized two in number, directly related to the topic of the dissertation, presented at the conference "Young Scientific Forum for Music and Dance", as well as a report on the topic of development.

The relevance of the topic of the dissertation "Stylistic and interpretive problems in works for wind orchestra by Nikolay Bratanov, Jules Levy and Hristo Tonev" is due to the dynamics in the development of contemporary music and the need to consider, analyze and update conducting approaches, and the methodology of their application. It is also caused by the need to create new

works for brass band, which will provoke young conductors to work with brass bands, as well as enrich the professional and aesthetic worldview in this field.

The goal of the dissertation is to analyze works for brass band (some of which are based on folklore) composed by Nikolay Bratanov, Jules Levy and Hristo Tonev, current works included in the programs of modern Bulgarian brass bands, as well as proposed solutions to problems, concerning the formation of the repertoire of the student, amateur and professional brass bands in Bulgaria.

The object of the research is the issues concerning stylistic and interpretive aspects, arising in the process of working with works for brass band by Bulgarian composers, in this case examples from the works of the above-mentioned artists, which are the subject of development. The analyzed works are "Pirin Rhapsody" by J. Levy, the march "Rodina" by N. Bratanov, "Holiday in Graovsko - song and dance for bagpipe and brass band" and "Choral" by Hr. Tonev. Stylistic and interpretive problems are considered and ideas for their solution are offered.

Research tasks include:

- study of the prerequisites leading to the emergence and development of the brass band in Bulgaria;
- collecting information about the brass band of Pernik founded in 1901; - searching for the original scores of the works considered in the development, as well as of recordings and other materials documenting concerts with works by the three composers;
- interpretive analysis of the works included in the research;
- the conducting problems related to the style and interpretation of the works by Nikolay Bratanov, Jules Levy and Hristo Tonev are defined and considered;
- the point of view of the composer and conductor Hristo Tonev is considered and commented. through an interview with him.

The research methodology is conducted through a comprehensive approach. The methods used are: empirical, theoretical, deductive, analytical, descriptive, comparative, hermeneutic. T. Trifonov presents a huge volume and quality of content using the deductive method (from general to private), ie from the historical prerequisites and stylistic features in general to the conducting issues in the interpretation of specific contemporary works for brass band.

The dissertation is structured in two main chapters with subchapters, introduction, conclusion with contributions and appendices.

In the introduction to this comprehensive study, the doctoral student presents the motives for its realization, the object, the subject, the goal, the tasks and presents his scientific hypothesis.

The first chapter "Origin of the brass band and its distribution" is dedicated to more general issues related to the brass band and performance, considered in historical context and in the present, emphasizing the place of the first civil brass band in Bulgaria - the Brass Band. Pernik.

The second chapter "Conducting Problems in the Interpretation of Contemporary Works for brass band" focuses on repertoire problems and analysis of creativity for brass band, on four works by the three leading composers in the genre.

The considered topic will lead to enrichment of the theoretical and practical skills of the conductors and will expand the competencies of the music pedagogues. The presented information and facts about the professional and life essence of emblematic personalities in this field will contribute to the increase of the general culture. The above determines the contributing nature of the dissertation.

This paper collects, systematizes and analyzes a large amount of information - a total of 153 pages, of which 129 main text and 22 pages with 5 appendices. The explanations are substantiated by appropriate musical examples 19 in number, which contribute to creating an even clearer picture of the object in question. Information from the State Archives of Pernik is also included. The bibliography includes 55 titles in Bulgarian and foreign languages.

The abstract is prepared according to the requirements and gives a clear idea of the content, object, subject, purpose, tasks, research tools and reflects the main results achieved in the dissertation.

The contributions of labor are expressed in the following:

- for the first time a factual and analytical study was made examining the development of the Pernik brass band;

- the analyzes and the conductor's instructions can be useful both for the performers and for the trainees in the field of the brass formations;

- the developed thesis will enrich the scientific and musicological facts and will provoke interest in the ensemble playing in a brass band / ensemble, leading to the revival of traditions in this field;

- the presented interview of Hristo Tonev complements the research and can serve as a basis for further scientific developments, and the interview with the musician Nanyo Cholpanov complements the doctoral thesis with facts;

- the prepared sample version of "Lesson for wind instruments" could be useful in pedagogical practice, as well as an opportunity to enrich the general musical culture of a wider circle of people;

- the presented concert performances are an essential part of the doctoral program and practically show the professionalism of the dissertation as a conductor and researcher;

- the applications can serve as a starting point for further developments in this direction.

The clear statement and the scientifically substantiated analyzes in the dissertation make a strong impression. The language used in the dissertation is professional and at the same time understandable and accessible. Each considered problem is theoretically substantiated and clearly explained.

I am convinced that the dissertation will intrigue not only the conductors, but also all those interested in wind music. For this reason, I recommend that the paper be published to make it available to a wider range of readers.

In conclusion, I will point out that the dissertation of Trifon Trifonov on "Stylistic and interpretive problems in works for wind orchestra by Nikolay Bratanov, Jules Levy and Hristo Tonev" impressed me with the depth of the subject, analysis and scientific-theoretical justification written on professional and at the same time accessible language, as well as with qualitative examples, helping to make the research even clearer. From what is stated in the work it is evident that Trifon Trifonov is a conductor, with rich musical-theoretical training and concert practice. I believe that the theoretical development meets the requirements for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". This gives me reason to propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award Trifon Velikov Trifonov the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

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**Prepared the opinion: .....**

(Prof. Dr. Borislav Yasenov)