

SUMMARY
OF A MONOGRAPHIC (CREATIVE) WORK
OF SENIOR ASSIST. PROF. EMIL TRAYCHEV, PhD
PROJECTS, ARRANGEMENTS, CONCERTS

Original works, compositions, orchestrations, arrangements and concert performances

(with attached sheet music,

recordings and music albums on CD)

The creative project I have presented includes musical works created between 2016-2023 - "Hades and Persephone"- a piece for electronic music, "Passion, Revelation, Inspiration" - a piece for string quartet, as well as some of the orchestrations and arrangements I have made in my long career as an arranger. In it I have presented only a small part of the musical arrangements and orchestrations made for musical formats, such as "Playing Choirs" on bTV, in "Slavi's Show", arrangements of Renaissance songs from the album of Ku-Ku Band and Slavi Trifonov "Songs for Bulgarians", as well as the orchestrations and arrangements of the concert "Messiah. Volume II. Resurrection" and Michael Jackson's arrangement of "Smoot criminal".

1. Piece for string quartet "Passion, Revelation and Inspiration"

The piece for string quartet "Passion, Revelation, Inspiration" is a musical work that consists of three movements with a reprise movement. I have woven elements of various musical styles into it, from the Baroque and Classical periods, through contemporary genres, to film music, with minimalism as the main means of expression. My approach is not entirely minimalist; I strive to structure the various minimalist sections in conventionally academic forms, which contributes to a broader musical atmosphere and variety. In this sense, my style can be compared to some works for string quartet by Philip Glass.

In the different parts of the piece I use sequences reminiscent of baroque music. My texture is mostly homophonic, and harmonically the basic tonality is maintained, with

deviations to some other degrees. There are no particular ensemble problems in the piece, apart from the eighth-note pulsation, which demands attention from the performers.

I have tried to rely on precision of tempo. The tempo with which I wanted the piece of music to be performed is moderato, which should not be con brio (with brilliance) or in the neurasthenic agitato (agitated). That is, I wanted the tempo to be lively and energetic, but without undue emotion or acceleration that might change the character of the work.

My triptych "Passion, Revelation and Inspiration" is an attempt to integrate a different type of compositional technique - combining minimalist with expressive devices from Viennese classical to Hollywood romantic music. All the searches I have had have been meaningful and not the result of spontaneous invention. I have tried to enter into the respective models used by contemporary composers from the film industry and minimalists alike

Realization of the project

In 2021, the work Passion, Revelation and Inspiration was included for the first time on the CD album Pictures from Bulgaria 5 and was performed and broadcast on BNR's Horizon programme Pictures from an Exhibition (<http://www.kartiniotednaizlojba.com/index.php?p=3&id=563>).

On 15.07.2022 the piece for string quartet "Passion, Revelation and Inspiration" was part of the program of the second concert of the summer program of the Gabrovo Chamber Orchestra on the open stage of the House of Culture in Gabrovo.

2. Electronic music piece "Hades and Persephone"

The piece for electronic music "Hades and Persephone" is divided into two parts, the development of the musical material is free, without transitions between sections. The first section presents scenes from Persephone's carefree childhood with light-hearted music with a slight nostalgia. The second section recreates Hades' fateful meeting and falling in love with Persephone, as well as her abduction to the underworld. In this movement, I introduce somber music with an enhanced ethnic element in the solo voice without lyrics, using Gregorian and Madrigal intonations, Doric lament combined with loops and, creating the mythological picture.

Like film music, the piece Hades and Persephone combines various means of expression and instruments, including a symphony orchestra with percussion instruments and electronic loops. It is a combination of different musical elements and can be interpreted as a bridge to a wider audience unfamiliar with large symphonic forms.

In a similar musical style is the work Falling in Love with Hades, written by myself in 2023. This musical work is an organic continuation of the piece about Hades and Persephone. It develops the themes and motifs set in the first work, introducing new aspects of the mythological story and adding to the musical thought. In this composition we can find continuity in the use of different musical elements and instruments, combined with an innovative approach and development of the musical theme.

Realisation of the project

The work was performed, recorded and mastered by me, in my studio. The work "Hades and Persephone" is part of the annual international forum "The Universe of Computer Music". In 2019 it was included and performed in "Pictures of Bulgaria No. 4" on BNR's Horizon programme.

The work „Hades and Persephone" gave me an opportunity to experiment with ideas, creative experience and technical possibilities in the field of film music, as a model for combining electronic music with classical music.

3. Orchestrations and arrangements

In the text I have discussed the importance of orchestrations and arrangements in the art of music. I share my experiences in different musical formats, live concerts, etc. The main points in this part of the creative project include: the arrangements made for TV formats such as "Game of Choirs" and "The Slavi Show", orchestrations of the album "Messiah. Volume II. Resurrection" and the concert like "Messiah Under the Stars" and the arrangement of the song by Michael Jackson and produced by Quincy Jones "Smoot criminal". I have also pointed out the specific arrangement of the song "Alder Woods", described in detail.

3.1 Arrangement of songs from the music format "Game of Choirs" on bTV, in the programme "Slavi's Show"

In 2016 my task was to arrange renaissance songs in different styles for the music format "Game of Choirs" in the programme "Slavi's Show" on bTV. This challenge directed me to create unique interpretations that would unite the traditional aesthetics of the renaissance songs with contemporary musical trends, which added an extra dynamism and variety to my work, making the project even more interesting and challenging for me and my colleagues. Incorporating folk songs in a contemporary style was an innovative approach that added freshness and attractiveness to the performances and, consequently, the audience's perceptions. My work encompasses the creation of arrangements of works varying in style and genre, arranged specifically for multi-voice choral performance. In this project I combined classical music with unconventional elements such as beatboxing, folklore, as well as elements of Bulgarian and world pop and rock music. This experience was not only a creative challenge, but also an opportunity to expand my horizons of musical expression. The songs I arranged were in the following nine categories: 'Favorite Bulgarian Songs', 'Songs by Adele', 'Balkan Songs', 'Bulgarian Songs from Macedonia', 'Russian Songs for the Victory over Hitler Fascism on May 9', 'Rock Music', 'Film Music', 'Songs by Ku-Ku Band' and 'Songs by ABBA'.

3.2. Orchestration and arrangement of the concert "Messiah. Volume II. Resurrection"

In my creative project I describe the orchestration and arrangements of the album and concert "Messiah. Volume II. Resurrection" by Miroslav Kostadinov (Miro). The project includes the release of the album "Messiah. Volume II. Resurrection", and was premiered in acoustic format in an unusual unplugged concert broadcast on bTV. I've presented the process of creating the arrangements, which involve working with a variety of instruments, with particular attention to the vocal characteristics of the performers. The voice is the soul of the song, so in the orchestrations of this concert, I make sure that the other musical parts do not clutter up the performers' voices and thus distract from the lyrics or melody.

After the success of the album, in September 2015, the tour "Messiah under the stars" was held in the major Bulgarian cities - Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, etc., which required new orchestrations of the songs for outdoor performance.

3.3. Revival songs from the album of Ku-Ku Band and Slavi Trifonov "Songs for Bulgarians"

The album of Ku-Ku Band and Slavi Trifonov "Songs for Bulgarians" released in March 2018 is composed of renaissance songs. The main task for me was to make the arrangements of the Renaissance songs sound more modern by making a balance between these styles - Renaissance and contemporary. Without turning them into a parody and keeping their message - to sound proud, as is their authentic idea, without changing the meaning and message of the song.

The difficulties in arranging were related to the different structure of the songs and the choice of climaxes. In the process, different instruments were used to build the songs with varied and interesting arrangements. The use of different instruments is key to creating a varied and interesting arrangement. In order to get a varied arrangement in the different intros I have included piano, strings, clarinet, trumpet, guitars (acoustic or electric) which adds depth and a way of exposing the sonic fabric to the musical composition. At the climaxes I use a whole arsenal of strong sounding instruments such as a drum kit, distortion guitars and brass section which adds energy and dynamism to the music. The choice of an intro, first in the piano and then in the guitar, adds colour and interest to the arrangement, starting with a more subtle and delicate sound before moving to a louder sound in the choruses or climaxes. This adds to the dynamic development of the song and keeps the listeners interest.

3.4. Arrangement for solo violin and orchestra of "Smooth Criminal" - Song by Michael Jackson

The arrangement for solo violin and orchestra of the song "Smooth Criminal" by Michael Jackson was a process that required careful listening and understanding of each instrumental passage of the original song. In this case, I used David Garrett's performance for inspiration, performed with a symphony orchestra. Creating an arrangement for such a diverse ensemble requires combining different musical techniques and instruments. For this I used first and second violins, viola, and cello, double bass, piano, guitar, bass guitar and drum kit. My main goal was to have balance and harmony between all the instruments, with special attention to the distribution of the musical material and the cymbals for each musician. The score with

its 27 pages shows the amount of work and attention to detail that is required to create such a complex arrangement.

The musical work "Passion, Revelation, Inspiration" "Hades and Persephone", "Falling in Love with Hades", the mentioned arrangements and orchestrations were written and recorded in my studio "EmoSound" using a notation program . "Sibelius", which successfully combines the following features: simplicity of use and the extreme flexibility and power of the software. This program provides many possibilities for recording/turning musical ideas into musical notation. The latest versions of Sibelius include many exotic instruments from East Asia such as the koto, sitar, gamelan and others.

The musical work "Passion, Revelation, Inspiration", "Hades and Persephone" and "Falling in Love with Hades", as well as all the arrangements and orchestrations mentioned, were created and recorded in my studio "EmoSound", where I have been combining the professions of arranger and tone engineer for many years. As a musician and teacher of tone engineering, I am often involved in editing, mixing and final mastering of audio recordings for music albums, record products and audiovisual projects such as music videos. The role of a sound engineer is not limited to technical skills, but also includes the ability to combine these technical aspects with a creative approach to ensure a high quality sound and to highlight the expressiveness of each musical composition.

PRACTICAL AND APPLIED CONTRIBUTIONS:

1. Achieved a very good professional level in the development of arrangements for musical formations (chamber ensembles, rock bands, small orchestras) associated with a television program with a daily format, whose music is always accompanied by a cause, which requires a quick reaction and the ability to work in different musical styles to attract and hold the attention of the audience. It offers a system to work with when arranging.

2. Professionally adapts a range of musical works that are traditional in nature (classical or Bulgarian folklore belonging to different countries and times) to the contemporary taste of the general audience.

3. Presented in detail original compositions "Passion, Revelation, Inspiration" and "Hades and Persephone" testify to the high level of work and the possibilities of flexibility, regardless of the composition and selection of performers - students or professionals, to obtain

a strong product - on stage or in the recording studio. He creates original works and pushes his own line of composing.

4. The orchestration and arrangements in the project "Messiah" by Miroslav Kostadinov (Miro) - among the most famous popular and beloved Bulgarian performers - is a serious proof of professionalism, ingenuity and high level of work production.

5. He is actively involved in the musical life of Bulgaria with solo or ensemble performances as a pianist and saxophonist. Manages to involve NBU students in his work on a real stage, thus giving way to the young and showing them the necessary knowledge in a real environment. He combines his practical musical activities with the training of NBU students.

6. Participates actively in both practical and scientific activities - through publications, participation in scientific conferences, seminars, in the international DEMUSIS project with 9 institutions from Europe.

7. Works for the development of musical practices in music programs, including tone direction, orchestration and arranging, both on open music stages and in research studios. All of these activities link functionally with the activities of the NBU Radio-TV Centre.