

OPINION

on

The dissertation entitled „The song of Reynaldo Hahn and the application of French phonetic transcription in the interpretation in French, compared to the practical transcription and transliteration into Bulgarian" by Ivaylo Trifonov Mihaylov - for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in professional field 8.3. Music and dance art, scientific field of higher education 8. Arts.

by

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Ivaylo Mihaylov was born in 1973 in the town of Stara Zagora. In 1992 he graduated from the French Language Secondary School "Antoine de Saint-Exupery" in the city of Plovdiv. In 1997 he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Classical Singing from the National Music Academy "Pancho Vladigerov". He continued his studies at the Opera Academy "Boris Hristov" in Rome, Italy, and at the Opera Academy in Osimo, Italy. In 2007 he defended his Master's degree in Classical Music and specialized Vocal Pedagogy at New Bulgarian University, Sofia. And in 2011, he achieved a Master's degree in Art Management, at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts Plovdiv, and in 2013 - Master's degree in Music and Stage Directing at the AMDFA Plovdiv. He has worked as a soloist at the operas of Plovdiv, Varna, Stara Zagora, vocal teacher of the Plovdiv Boys' Choir, currently works as a soloist at the State Opera of Stara Zagora and assistant professor in Classical singing at AMDFA

Plovdiv. He гъя participated in a large number of opera performances in opera houses throughout Bulgaria. He has participated in performances held in various operas around the world, including Italy, Romania, Portugal, Poland, Japan. There are a number of publications, reviews and opinions in various magazines and national newspapers. He has also three projects as a director which had a considerable success. Currently, Ivaylo Mihaylov works as a soloist of the State Opera of Stara Zagora and assistant professor in Opera singing at AMDFA Plovdiv.

The dissertation consists of 187 pages, which include Introduction, Three Chapters, Conclusion, Appendices, Contributions, Bibliography, Music Examples and Photographs.

The introduction is presented in the form of "General characteristics of the dissertation", and the most important topics on which the dissertation will be developed are arranged in points. The significance and relevance of the dissertation is in the fact that the composer whose work is studied in the dissertation, presents an individual style which combines the creative attitudes of the era and the personal views of individual artists of that time. Also, it is worth to mention that the period in which the composer works is associated with different artistic trends - futurism, cubism, symbolism, modernism, etc.

The subject of the research - the need to apply the French phonetic transcription in the interpretation in French.

Chapter One is dedicated to the songwriting of Reynaldo Hahn. Belle Epoque - a period of European history in the late 19th and early 20th century is analysed in detail. The doctoral student lists names related to this style in various creative fields and how they influenced the work of the composer Hahn. French researchers classify Reynaldo Hahn as a "neoclassicist", specifically a "traditionalist". The composer's contacts with personalities such as Alphonse Daudet, Paul Verlaine, Mallarmé, Edmond Goncourt, Marcel Proust, Sarah Bernhardt and others had a huge impact on Hahn's work. "I am neither a singer, nor a teacher in singing, nor a physiologist; I am a composer and I have only a relative authority to speak of art, which is so complex and difficult that even specialists who have studied its secrets in depth all their lives often make contradictory statements. I am aware of the extent to which my knowledge is insufficient." shared the composer himself.

Chapter Two - "Transcription of the text in vocal interpretation". Regarding the relationship between melody and text in the interpretive aspect, he points out that for the singer, interpreter of the song, it is extremely important to suggest to the listener

that “while singing he is telling the story, and while telling the story he is singing”. One who, despite his vocal skills and good singing technique, fails to present the text, has only half done his job and "crippled" the artistic qualities of the work, because "Artistic song is the most perfect combination of poetry and music." With accuracy and professional opinion the doctoral student Ivaylo Mihaylov quotes and complements proven professionals such as Vera Baeva, Prof. Svilen Raychev, Elena Kiselova, etc. The problem of the connection between word and music has multidirectional dimensions in the construction of characters in music stage genres. Prof. Svilen Raychev raises this question by examining the creation of the stage character in the classical operetta and pays special attention to the insight into the text in the vocal staging work. The expressed thoughts of the composer Reynaldo Hahn are mainly about the symbiosis of text, music and dance, as great and special attention is paid to the phonetically correct articulation in singing.

In Chapter Three "Applying the technology of phonetic transcription in the French interpretation of the vocal works of Reynaldo Hahn. At the heart of this chapter is an analysis of the cycle "Gray Songs" with the poems of Paul Verlaine. It has seven parts. In addition to this cycle, the doctoral student has listed in detail all the songs and vocal cycles of Hahn. Here are stated the years of composition, the poets who have written the lyrics. It is especially noted that Hahn was greatly influenced by the poetry of Paul Verlaine. Then comes an analysis, musical examples and all the details of the "Gray Songs" cycle ("Chansons grises"). Chronological framework of the "Venezia" cycle with provided musical examples.

In the Conclusion, the doctoral student lists the benefits of the work and how it could be of help to any opera singer who reaches to the work of Reynaldo Hahn. Then comes a bibliography of the sources used by the doctoral student.

The contribution of the dissertation are as follows:

- For the first time, the problem of the introduction of French phonetic transcription is studied, with a focus on quality and faster "accomplishing" texts when singing in French.
- For the first time in Bulgarian musicology a thorough analysis and genre classification of songs, collections of songs and vocal cycles of Reynaldo Hahn has been done, including their editions (by the author and after his death).
- For the first time in musicology information about the composer's songs in chronological order, their editions, as well as information about their versions

(transcriptions, etc.) are summarized and the main aspects of his views on vocal art are presented.

- For the first time a phonetic transcription is made, compared with practical transcription and transliteration and free translation of the songs, performed by the author of the study.
- Apart from research, the dissertation also has practical and application value, i.e. it offers and proves an innovative system that can replace existing practice.

After getting acquainted with the dissertation of Ivaylo Mihaylov and having been convinced of its scientific and practical benefits for future young opera singers, I confidently give my positive vote for the award of the scientific and educational degree "Doctor" to Ivaylo Mihaylov.

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