

OPINION

by Prof Ivan Stoyanov Dimitrov, PhD

Department of Pop and Jazz Art

National Academy of Music "Prof Pancho Vladigerov"

on the dissertation of

Miroslav Ivanov Turiyski

titled:

The Relation of Improvisation to Composition, Arrangement, and Lineup of the Contemporary Jazz Band

for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor"

Music Studies and Music Art

professional field 8. 3. Music and Dance Art

Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts "Prof Asen Diamandiev" - Plovdiv

Academic supervisor: Prof Veselin Koychev, PhD

Miroslav Turiyski graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Jazz Piano at the National Music Academy "Prof Pancho Vladigerov", Sofia. Later, he graduated with a Master's degree in Jazz Piano at AMDFA, Plovdiv. He started his professional career in 1997 as a jazz pianist and music director in dozens of projects at all important jazz festivals in Bulgaria such as: Plovdiv Jazz Fest, Plovdiv Jazz Evenings, Bansko Jazz Fest, Apollonia, Sofia Music Jam, Burgas Jazz, Varna Summer, Haskovo Jazz Fest, participated in the Plovdiv International Jazz Meetings held until 1999 with the band White, Green, Red. He is the founder of Plovdiv Octet, composes, arranges and performs music in a wide range of genres and compositions: from jazz combo to symphony orchestra, big band; from jazz, pop-rock to film or theater music. He is a teacher at AMDFA in Jazz Piano and Improvisation.

Miroslav Turiyski's work focuses on elucidating important elements of jazz theory, summarized and systematized in a way that would have useful educational potential.

The dissertation research consists of 107 pages and is structured in: introduction, 4 chapters, conclusion, reference to the main contributions of the dissertation, publications on the topic, appendices, creative autobiography and bibliography including 56 sources used in the abstract, of which 21 in Cyrillic, 24 in Latin and 11 internet sources.

At the very beginning of the dissertation, the doctoral student presents the object of his research - to confirm the hypothesis that improvisation is the result of a complex synthesis of different musical traditions and applied theoretical knowledge about the specific instrument on which it is performed.

Improvisation itself is directly dependent on the aforementioned factors, which are the field of study, and is inversely proportional to the complexity of the composition, arrangement and the size of the ensemble.

The relationships between chords and scales are touched upon, and various options for treating harmonic sequences are presented. Based on the analyses and parallels, conclusions were drawn about the connections that exist between the improvisation and the detailed scales and chords. The role of using different approaches to building a melodic jazz improvisation (with high and low time tones, chromatics in the melody, chord melody, melodic lines, accents), as well as harmonization and reharmonization of the melodic line is skillfully highlighted. The author examines many problems related to the imposed standards in the requirements for aesthetically sound jazz improvisation, emphasizing that the improviser needs to use a huge stock of expressive means and theoretical knowledge in order to fit in adequately in a certain situation. The conclusions drawn are based on the analyses of the concerts held for the purposes of the study and offer sufficient diversity in terms of the factors important to the study.

I believe that the practical contribution of the research is indisputable in terms of the synthesized generalizations about the theory of jazz music, as well as the research related to the realized concerts with specially composed and arranged pieces that enrich the cultural and creative heritage in Bulgaria.

The reference for the contributions of the dissertation work and the author's abstract correspond to the topic and the required number of publications in specialized scientific editions are available.

The dissertation represents a completed scientific study, and the selection of research methods are both theoretical and empirical.

The aforementioned gives me full reason to give my positive assessment of the dissertation work and I recommend to the respected scientific jury to award Miroslav Turiyski the scientific education degree "DOCTOR" in scientific field 8.3. Music and Dance Art.

Prof Ivan Stoyanov Dimitrov

10. 09. 2024