

## **Abstract**

### **of a book based on a defended dissertation**

"The Choir and the Choral Conductor in Opera. Aspects of Working with an Opera Choir" by Krastin Nastev is the first independent work in Bulgarian dedicated to choirs in the opera genre. The book is structured in three chapters and represents his doctoral dissertation, defended in 2023 at the National Academy of Music "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov". The first chapter traces the evolution of choirs over the centuries and also offers methods for analyzing the musical dramaturgy in opera-choral scores from Monteverdi to Wagner.

The second chapter of the publication focuses on the specificity of the male and female voice, with the author sharing theoretical guidelines for modifying the vocals in the choral collective. Part of the text in this chapter is dedicated to the anatomy, phenomena of the voice and singing registers. An attempt is made to provide a scientific basis on which choir conductors can work when analyzing the choral score.

Kristin Nastev is preparing her doctorate with a practical focus, and in the third chapter she examines the application of the International Phonetic Alphabet in the work of the choir conductor – a system introduced in 1886, which serves for the detailed recording of sounds using standard symbols. The alphabet has established itself as a way of reading and transcribing the phonetics of foreign languages, and the lack of knowledge in the correct recording of vocals, according to the author, leads to phonetic errors in singing. The chapter provides basic knowledge of the phonetics of Italian, French and German languages and their application in operatic literature.