

## RECENSION

by

Prof. Dr. Svilen Raychev

about

Dissertation for rewarding the educational and scientific degree „doctor“

to

Eugeniy Chevkenov

entitled

„Historical context and analysis of the Violin concertos by Mozart KV 207, 211, 216, 218 and 219“

Scientific supervisor Prof. Dr. Toni Shekredzhieva - Nowak

Eugeniy Chevkenov was born on Mahr 8th 1971 in Plovdiv. He graduated from the Plovdiv Music High-School, The National Music Academy in Sofia and The University of Music Vienna. He received numerous prestigious international awards and for 5 years was a violinist of the Vienna State Opera and Vienna Philharmonic. 2000-2014 he has been Professor at the „Gustav Mahler“ Conservatory in Vienna, for one legislation period also a deputy director. Since 2014 he is Professor at the Viennese „Richard Wagner“ Conservatory, teaching violin, chamber music and orchestra. Since 2013 Professor at the annual summer courses Wiener Musikseminar at the University of Music in Vienna. He has given concerts in nearly 40 countries worldwide, in the most famous and prestigious halls such as Musikverein, Konzerthaus, Carnegie Hall, Gasteig, Pesti Figaro, Tokio Metropolitan, Osaka Symphony Hall etc. Founder and Music director of Ensemble Concertante Wien, founder and longtime president of Europa Kulturverein Wien, Since 2018 Art-Director of the International Chamber Music Festival in Plovdiv.

Eugeniy Chevkenov is doctorant-student on a specific program at professional direction 8.3 „Music and dance art“, doctoral study program „Music science and music art“ at the department „Classical and pop-jazz performing art“ at the AMTII „Asen Diamandiev“ Plovdiv. He has been dismissed with right of public defense of the dissertation by the order Nr RD-27-057 from July 13th 2022. The dissertation has been discussed and approved on for public defense on department's meeting of „Classical and pop-jazz performing art“ at the AMTII „Asen Diamandiev“ Plovdiv on September 14th 2022.

The doctoral thesis contained 200 pages, divided in introduction, 2 main chapters, conclusion, bibliography (33 sources), references (44 music and 50 table examples), and additionally 2 articles and 2 master class in 2022 on the same theme.

I am impressed by the way the work is structured and written - on high academic level and with remarkable style.

The main goal is defined to provide a sophisticated and solid analysis, which should provide the need argumentation about the specific form and contents of Mozart's violin concertos.

The chosen formula and the practical analytic concreteness are defining the significance of the dissertation and its scientific contribution.

The thesis is based on the contemporary approach to interpretation and aiming to its practical application by performers, teachers and students.

Even in the very beginning in the purposeful introduction Chevkenov has defined his motivation for the writing of the dissertation, which certifies his eagerness for adequate research, underlined by his subjective-emotional relation to the thematics and Mozart.

The first chapter starts with an overview of the most important political events during the Age of Enlightenment, connected to historical fact of the biography of the composer. Quote: „of this most distinguished genius i the history of music, and, why not, in the entire human history in general“ (page 15). The author describes the historical environment, the tendencies in literature, philosophy, science, the musical pre-history and the personal creative evolution of Mozart before the emerging of the violin concertos. He provides a full list of instrumental concertos and an emphasis is put not only on that, but as well on the operatic works , aiming to underline the rich composer experience of young Mozart at the moment when he approaches to write the violin concertos.

In the second chapter „Analysis“, by the means of introducing Musical anatomy, Tempo, Tonality, compares analytically the similarities and differences between the concertos in the thematic, articulations, dynamics, ornaments. Comparing the five opuses the author separates the first two from the following three concertos, dedicating the most value to the 5th and the less to the 2nd, quote: „at this particular step on the evolution scale in this genre by Amadeus“ (page 60). In the comparison overview Chevkenov includes: First movements (Expositions, Main themes, Second themes, Middle sections, Recapitulations); Second movements (cantilena, similar to human voice, defined by the author as „violinisticly disguised italian opera arias“ (page 79); Third movements (aside from the 1st concerto all in the form of Rondo, with developing middle sections and variations of the main theme). As follows, this comparing flows into a distinguished analytic method, not merely formal, but focused in searching and finding the definition of the specific Mozarts message not only in the violin concertos, but in his entire very rich work.

As an advantage to the dissertation I would like to point the richness of tables and music examples, from which it only profits.

The presented dissertation is an enrichment to our scientific literature and with its ideas represents a valuable contribution for new scientific development, for students who would like to reach the highest level on the world stages, as well for their teachers. This work has a strongly expressed practical value.

With a laconic, clear and categorical thought, the doctoral candidate is stating the issues, always, even without putting it directly, underlining his personal approach and opinion concerning the thematic. For the development are used a significant numbers of references, representing authors and schools which unfortunately are still not very popular in our country.

In the conclusion the author attempts to give a summary and to extract the contributive aspects of his work and I fully agree with his conclusions.

This investigation serves as a compass in the search of truthful interpretation of Mozarts violin concertos and of Mozarts work as a whole.

The doctoral candidate has published the required amount of articles on the topic.

Finally, I would like to say, that the dissertation covers the needed standards in scientific contributions for acquiring the scientific degree „doctor“ (PhD)  
I am convinced that the developed thesis by Eugeniy Chevkenov meets the criteria with its contribution in theoretical and practical appliance. By his entire work and contribution the candidate meets the conditions for receiving the educational and scientific degree „Doctor“ and that is why I suggest to the esteemed scientific Jury to grant it to him.

Prof. Dr. Svilen Raychev