

OPINION

by Prof ATANAS PETROV KARAFEZLIEV, PhD

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on dissertation for awarding

educational and scientific degree "DOCTOR" of

MARINA IVANOVA GOSPODINOVA

full-time doctoral student

Department of Orchestra Instruments and Classical Singing

Faculty of Music Pedagogy

AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" – Plovdiv

Title: *The Relationship between the Bebop Idiom and the Scat Improvisation in the Musical Language of Jazz Vocalists*

Biographical data: Marina Gospodinova received her music education at the National Academy of Music "Prof Pancho Vladigerov" in Sofia. In 1996, she won the 2nd prize for a young performer at the Golden Orpheus International Festival. Marina Gospodinova collaborates with numerous formations and works with the most prominent jazz musicians of Bulgaria, with large orchestras, as well as with foreign musicians. She is the leader of numerous projects, such as The Golden Years of Jazz, Jazz 'n' Groove Tales, Celebrating Billie Holliday, Bossa Nova-Nova Bossa and many others. The project that makes her especially popular is Jazz in Bulgarian (Jazz & Poetry), in which together with the conductor of the Big Band of the Bulgarian National Radio Antoni Donchev, the trumpeter Ventsislav Blagoev and the poetess Maria Doneva, present some of the most beautiful jazz standards with original texts in Bulgarian language. She combines her concert activity with her work as a teacher in pop and jazz singing at AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" in Plovdiv. Marina Gospodinova is a frequent guest to Ventsi Blagoev's educational project Jazz for Children. She is a guest singer in the studio albums of Vasil Petrov and Dimitar Karamfilov. She also has a number of records for BNT and BNR.

Marina Gospodinova is a performer with an impressive career, which, combined with her education, makes her an indisputable expert on the subject. Her dissertation consists of 180 pages and includes an introduction, four main chapters, conclusion, a bibliography and appendix. The bibliography includes 20 titles in Cyrillic, 36 in Latin, as well as 12 Internet sources.

The first chapter of the thesis is introductory and focuses the attention on the historical processes that led to the emergence of modern jazz (Bebop). It presents some of the main representatives of the vocal jazz, as well as their characteristic types of vocal improvisation. The terms *scat* and *vocalize* are defined, in the context of vocal jazz improvisation, as basic means of expression.

The second chapter is entitled *Fundamentals of the vocal performance work in contemporary music* and in it the author focuses on the basic steps for getting to know and master the voice instrument. The differences in sound extraction in classical and non-classical genres and styles are examined.

Chapter three is entitled *The Bebop idiom - characterization, representatives, analyzes*. Here, using analysis, the author examines the melodic, harmonic and rhythmic characteristics of bebop. She analyzes solos of Charlie Parker and scat solos of Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan scat solos. Vocal improvisation is examined in the context of bebop and its performers, as well as syllable choice. As a result of the musical analyses, the necessary insights and conclusions were drawn.

In the fourth chapter, the candidate discusses the possible application of the scat singing in the educational process in the higher music education. She has also has prepared a model of methodology for scat improvisation. The usefulness of the practical study of scat improvisation in the training process of contemporary pop and jazz singers is emphasized.

The contributions of the dissertation are brought out and systematized, with which it can be concluded that the work has a contributing nature.

The doctoral candidate presents two publications on the topic: *The Bebop Style - the Embodiment of Classical Modernity in Jazz* in 2020 Yearbook of AMDFA, and *General Characteristics of Scat Singing in Jazz*, at the Third International Scientific Conference in AMDFA "Science, Education and Innovations in the field of art", Plovdiv, 2021.

In the context of all of the above, taking into account the fact that the doctoral candidate has made an important contribution in the field of jazz with her performances and teaching work, and taking into account the high scientific and research level of the presented dissertation work, I give my positive assessment and propose to the respected scientific jury, to award the scientific and educational degree "Doctor" to Marina Ivanova Gospodinova, full-time doctoral student at the Department of Orchestra Instruments and Classical Singing, the Faculty of Music Pedagogy of AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" Plovdiv.

28.01.2024, Sofia

Prof Atanas Karafezliev