

OPINION

by Prof Ivan Stoyanov Dimitrov, PhD

Department of Pop and Jazz Art

National Academy of Music "Prof Pancho Vladigerov"

on the dissertation of

Marina Ivanova Gospodinova titled

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BEBOP IDIOM AND THE SCAT IMPROVISATION IN THE MUSICAL LANGUAGE OF JAZZ VOCALISTS

for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor"

professional field 8. 3. Music and Dance Art

doctoral program Music Studies and Music Art of

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, DANCE AND FINE ARTS

"Prof Asen Diamandiev" - Plovdiv

Academic supervisor: Prof Borislav Yassenov, PhD

Marina Gospodinova is one of the most popular jazz singers in Bulgaria. She received her music education at the National Academy of Music "Prof Pancho Vladigerov" in Sofia. She works with some of the most prominent Bulgarian and foreign jazz artists, skilfully combining her concert work with teaching pop and jazz singing at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts "Prof Asen Diamandiev" in Plovdiv.

Marina Gospodinova's dissertation is focused on the use of scat singing in jazz music with the aim of enriching the pedagogical experience in connection with the application of various improvisational techniques to singers in training.

The dissertation research consists of 158 pages and is structured into an introduction, 4 chapters, a conclusion, a reference to the main contributions of the dissertation, publications on the topic, appendices, a creative biography and a bibliography including 68 sources listed in the abstract, of which 20 in Cyrillic, 36 in Latin and 12 internet sources.

At the very beginning of the dissertation, the author provides a general overview of the history of jazz, emphasizing the bebop musical style, due to its immediate connection with the purpose of the research, and defines the concepts of scat and vocalization, in the context of vocal jazz improvisation. She skilfully highlights the role of the expiratory muscles in the differentiated sound production, discussing that the correct mastering of the breathing process is essential for the quality of the intonation, the tonal range, the control over the dynamics and the length of the musical phrase. The phases of the respiratory cycle are also mentioned as: *very short stopping (holding) of the air flow, holding and recovery (short release of tension in the respiratory muscles)*.

The author examines many problems related to the position of the body when singing, stressing that over time each performer must find their optimal singing position, which is essential

both for the control of the breathing process and for the quality of the sung tone. She offers an analysis and theoretical classification of selected examples from the history of jazz related to vocal improvisation in the context of bebop. Parallel to them, the elements of bebop, melody, rhythm and harmony integrated in the singing process to acquire auditory memory are listed and the steps in the training of modern singers are systematized, allowing them to acquire improvisational skills.

The candidate points out the advantages of using motifs and phrases from musical lines and solos as singing exercises necessary for the further technical mastery of the voice instrument. She offers her own thesis that improvisation is a freely usable set of different means of expression in the context of a given musical tradition, giving freedom to the performer and on this basis the use of scat singing in learning and mastering the voice instrument allows vocalists to control the tonal range, voice strength, timbre, vibrato and other aspects of vocal technique, allowing them to create expressive vocal improvisations.

The dissertation is a completed scientific study, with the selection of research methods being both theoretical and empirical.

I believe that the practical contribution of the thesis is indisputable in relation to learning vocal improvisation through the scat technique, and it will have practical applicability as a methodical guide, both for singers and instrumentalists.

The reference for the contributions of the dissertation work and the abstract correspond to the topic and the number of publications in specialized scientific journals is also as required.

All of the above gives me full reason to give my positive assessment of the dissertation work and I recommend to the respected scientific jury to award Marina Gospodinova the scientific-educational degree "DOCTOR" in scientific field 8.3. Music and Dance Art.

Prof Ivan Stoyanov, PhD

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