

OPINION

by **Prof Tsvetan Milchev Nedyalkov**,

National Music Academy "Pancho Vladigerov",

on a dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "**Doctor**"

in: field of higher education 8. Arts

professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art

doctoral program Music Studies and Music Art

of **Miroslav Ivanov Turiyski**

and the documents submitted for the award of the scientific degree "Doctor", as well as thesis titled:

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

Band

with academic supervisor: Prof Veselin Koichev,

AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev"

Miroslav Turiyski is an established name on the Bulgarian jazz scene and is distinguished by an impressive musical career covering both performance and composition. Although I have not worked with him personally, his biography shows a wide range of creative achievements in the field of jazz. He combines the skills of a performer, composer, improviser and arranger, making him one of the most sought-after musicians in this genre.

Turiyski graduated from the National Academy of Music "Pancho Vladigerov" with a major in Pop and Jazz Piano, and then continued with a Master's program in Jazz Piano at AMTII "Prof Asen Diamandiev" in Plovdiv. His participation in various music projects and festivals is significant, as he was a leading figure at events such as Plovdiv Jazz Fest, Bansko Jazz Fest, Apollonia, Sofia Music Jam and others. His international touring is also impressive, with performances in a number of countries including Austria, Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany and Canada.

Turiyski's dissertation, entitled *The Relation of Improvisation to Composition, Arrangement, and Lineup of the Contemporary Jazz Band* is an in-depth study of jazz improvisation and its relationship to the other key elements of musical performance. The work contains 145 pages, organized into an introduction, four main chapters, a conclusion, a list of the scientific contributions, appendices and a bibliography. The literature and sources used are diverse, with a total of 51 titles, including books in Bulgarian and foreign languages, as well as online resources.

The relevance of the topic is manifested in Turiyski's ability to connect theoretical analysis with the practical aspects of jazz improvisation, composition and arrangement. The work is focused on the way these elements intertwine in the performance practice of contemporary jazz bands. The object of the study – jazz improvisation in different contexts - is clearly defined, with particular attention

being paid to the interaction between improvisation, the musicians in the band and the arrangements of specific works.

Already at the beginning of the research, it is obvious that the doctoral student has a clearly formulated goal – to analyze the relationship between the various aspects of improvisation and the musical context in which it is realized. The author shows a deep understanding of the problem and uses a rich arsenal of analytical and comparative methods, including a synthesis of theoretical knowledge, literary sources and practical examples.

The first chapter deals with the basics of jazz theory and improvisation, with the author demonstrating a solid knowledge of the subject and supporting his theses with numerous examples and quotations. Then, the second chapter presents the practical aspects of the research by describing the concerts that are part of the author's empirical work. The included details on these concerts – musicians involved, creative concept and performance context – contribute to the overall argumentation of the study.

The third chapter contains a detailed analysis of the works performed during the concerts, with special emphasis on the various forms of improvisation. This part of the work is of particular importance, as it offers valuable observations on the specificity of improvisation in a variety of musical situations.

The fourth chapter summarizes the previous analyses, examining the relationship between stylistic frameworks, musicians in the band and improvisational freedom.

Among the main scientific contributions of the doctoral student, which should be highlighted and with which I fully agree, are the following:

1. Synthesis of the theory of jazz music: Within the framework of the work, important synthesized summaries about the theory of jazz are made, which, outside the context of the dissertation, can independently serve as educational material for the teaching of jazz improvisation.

2. Cultural and artistic enrichment: In the process of the research, concerts were organized with plays composed or arranged specifically for the purposes of the dissertation. These works represent a valuable contribution to the cultural and artistic heritage.

3. In-depth analysis of the practical aspects of jazz improvisation: The dissertation provides a detailed analysis of key elements of the practical side of jazz improvisation, which in turn offers important guidelines for educational practices and the development of performers' skills.

4. Revealing the role of the performers in jazz improvisation: The dissertation emphasizes the importance of each individual performer in the construction of the overall form of jazz improvisation, examining in depth the different functions of musicians.

5. The Importance of interaction in the jazz ensemble: The study demonstrates the importance of interaction between the musicians in a jazz band, emphasizing cooperation and communication between individual ensemble members as a key factor in successful performance.

In conclusion, the presented work of Miroslav Turiyski is a serious scientific contribution in the field of jazz improvisation and arrangement. The author demonstrates academic maturity and analytical abilities, successfully combining the theoretical and practical approach to the problem. The paper is clearly structured and provides original observations and conclusions that could be the basis for future research in the field of jazz. In view of the above, I give my positive assessment of the dissertation work and recommend the respected Scientific Jury to award Miroslav Ivanov Turiyski the scientific and educational degree "Doctor".

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