

CATALOGUING MUSIC TV PROGRAMS

The subject of this research is a result of an analysis already made in the sphere of the television video. Until now, several topics have been developed in IRAM, connected with the musical programs of the Macedonian TV media. The TV musical heritage is rather delicate and is threatened by the old-fashioned technique. The way of expression in the musical programs reflects the condition of the music in our surroundings, showing the rich musical production which brings to conclusions about certain events and persons, as well as about the development of the music itself. The preservation and protection of this precious video legacy is the principal challenge of the Macedonian musical television history.

During the past researches, analyzing the musical program of the TV media, we encountered a great deal of problems. The search was very difficult and we obtained minimum data. We had to look through all musical programs included in the previous researches for more detailed information. Thus, we started creating our own database.

This was our starting point. As a musical institution, we decided to look through the principles of cataloguing i.e. the data input of the musical programs in the Macedonian TV media. A conclusion was made that during the past few years, the musical programs were an integral part of the program scheme of all TV channels. The development of the musical production, as well as its numerous programs of all musical genres, imposed the necessity of cataloguing which will provide an easy identification and a fast search.

During our research of the musical programs, we concluded that considering the number of the musical programs, the presence of musical programs of various genres, the mode and the treatment of the musical program, MTV, being the only TV medium until one decade ago, is still the leading one. For this reason, we decided to search through the cataloguing of this institution.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ABOUT MTV

MTV has a status of a public service - an organization for distribution of programs. It is founded by the Parliament of Macedonia. The main activities are production and distribution of all genres of radio and TV programs aimed to fulfill the needs of the Macedonian citizens considering the daily informing, culture, education, sport and entertainment segment.

The Macedonian Radio started its broadcasting on December 1944 under the name Radio Skopje and the first public appearance was the Second Session of ASNOM. After many beginnings and significant achievements, 14th of December 1964 is the day that makes the milestone for the Macedonian TV.

From the very beginnings of the TV production, the TV medium is equipped with unique and priceless treasure of news, culture and history. The music with its large scope and as a part of the entire musical heritage is a very important segment in the creation of the history of humanity. Following its development, we can also track the other segments of the human living –social, cultural and esthetic.

The 30 minutes ballet concert of the MNT soloists, Elpida Pakovska and Jovan Pasti is considered as a first musical-ballet accomplishment. The complete organizational team is a guest to the Belgrade TV, due to the lack of its own studio and studio technique. Unfortunately, the first Macedonian musical-ballet TV program is not recorded because of shortage in tapes.

By the end of the 60's, the management decided to expand the scope of the musical programs, thus enlarging the scope of its own production. By improving of the quality, a systematic following of the Macedonian musical life and the modern trends has been made. During the summer of 1964 live broadcasts of sports, folklore and entertainment programs from the "Solidarity meetings" have been realized. The famous interpreter Mina and the world well-known "Golden Gate" quartet performed in front of the studio cameras in Skopje. The first popular musical programme has been realized with Bozidar Noev as a singer and Nikola Avtovski as a host. The ensemble "Tanec", a choir, and a large number of folk singers appeared in the programme "In the middle of the village". Everything was broadcast live.

Today MTV possesses a huge fund of "boxes" and tapes, in which the history of TV in Macedonia is documented, including a great number of titles of music programs, festivals, concert music with participation of well-known home and international artists. Each programme, if not each segment of the programme, talks about the spiritual and the mental structure of those that created them, as well as about the socio-economic conditions in which they were made. On the other hand, the electronic recording of a recent event, as well as the reconstruction of the past events, consist of a great dose of quest for identity, establishment of identity and a standard for that identity, either collective or personal. Its decoding is drawing the map of the spiritual treasure of the ethnos.

The modern informative technology is providing fast and adequate protection of the cultural heritage through digitization. At this moment, the digitization is the only way to save the cultural treasure. The process of digitization is not only a way for saving the material, but also a way of providing a secure protection of this precious material that will be in contact with the next generation and will provide an eternal actuality.

CATALOGUING

During the past years, the way of entering data in MTV was very different. A variety of forms for entering data was used. The most common were the so-called "charts" for keeping record of the program. Looking through the Card files of the Archive and Documentation Department, we concluded that the way of entering data varies, i.e. the fields varied from card to card. Mainly, all of them contain the name of the program, the number of the tape, the duration and the desk; only in a few cases there is a field for keeping records of the participants. The data for the programs can be found at the MTV Documentation Department and in the Card file. The biggest problem in searching through the musical programs are those that are recorded on movie tapes and in quadri plex. Due to the incomplete data in the card files and the defective hardware, neither these programs could be checked nor a complete database could be done.

Parallel with the card files in the Documentation Department, each desk has its own card files completed by the employees in the desk (Department). The cards are different but the fields are almost identical.

Later, cards for “electronic documentation“ in different colors on the top have been used (each color representing a different desk), while the fields inside are the same for each desk. Apart from being used for broadcasting, these ”cards” are still in use for the files in the desks. In the past few years, only data for the first broadcasting were filled in and were submitted to the service for coordination, together with the registration forms for broadcasting. For the results of the entered data, we do not have an answer.

We can learn about the type of the carrier by the cards. The so-called ‘Green cards’ contain data for programs on C and Beta formats; they are located in the MTV Documentation Department and have only few fields: the title, the duration, the minute of the beginning of the program and the number of the tape. The cards are records for the contents of each program and are used for each broadcasting.

For each broadcast of the programs of each desk, registration forms have been filled in with a certain number of fields. Various types of registration forms or the so-called “shirts” were used in the past years. We managed to find several types.

We can conclude that despite the definition of the fields for the database, yet the data have not been filled in. There is also a problem with the programs that are not broadcast, because this list is valid only for the ones that are broadcast. In this case, the older programs will be without any records. We only want to note that these fields are the same for each department. The journalist is usually the one, who does the filling in of the data, but most often, he does not have the necessary data and it is a common picture that the fields of the registration forms are usually empty.

During our research, we find out that the main approach in the audiovisual material looks frustrating. The material is almost ruined in the archives and almost inaccessible for the users. The monitoring capacity is limited. Making copies is difficult and searching through is poor. The modern development of technology provides every day’s access to data. In the last few years, the media production transformed the basic tapes into a digitalizing process and the searching through the programs is quick and effective. All this shows that there is a need of quick digitization of the material in the MTV Documentation.

The first phase of the digitization process is the cataloguing of the primary material, i.e. forming database. The cataloguing is necessary for making records of the primary material.

The first phase of the process of cataloguing is a description of the contents, i.e. a description of the primary material. This phase consists of concrete defining of the fields through which a description of the primary material will be given and will be formed as a secondary database.

The second phase represents a digitization of the primary material.

The third phase is an addition to the first one and is cataloguing of the digitized material.

In this research, we are going to inspect only the first phase of the digital cataloguing, i.e. the definition of the fields for the musical programs in MTV.

There are efforts in MTV to make a digital cataloguing. A team is formed, i.e. a Division for audio and video documentation that is working on entering the program in the base of the digital cataloguing. The priority is for the daily political events. The base is manufactured by "Semos". The data for the musical radio programs are already entered for a longer period.

We have to note that this database is used only for audio materials. The Division informed us that no musical programme has been entered and that this base is meant only for the numbers, rather than for the completely formed musical programs. They mentioned that when the process of entering musical programs will start, the base will be similar but with additional fields. We did not get a concrete answer for the fields because this is in progress. The base will consist of some of the fields from the other desks.

The Television is a poly-disciplinary medium and its product is one of a team of authors. The director is the creator of the main authorial stream on which the other authors are floating: the journalist/ the scenarist, the cameraman, the scene designer, the costume designer, the composer, the editor... The happy synthesis of a complete authorial team makes a unique product. Based on these components we formed the definition of the fields according to which a cataloguing should be possible.

- general data (catalogue number, signature, title, duration, year of production, financial structure)

- managerial team (desk, editor, editor of the program, producer, organizer, assistant to the organizer)

- recording data (location, number of cameras, types of cameras, types of light, types of microphones)

- broadcasting data (date of broadcasting, primary, reprise, number of carrier)

- context (type of program, music used, types of instruments)

- participants (orchestra, ensemble, singers, instrumentalists, artists, speakers, ballet dancers, host)

- creative team (scenery, costume, scene, director, musical collaborator, musical illustration)

- technical team (recording, cameraman, recording with RCU, recording with Beta team, editor, type of editing, effects used, tone editing)

- digitization