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## The Influence of the Cultural Policy on the Development of Classical Music Vocal Practice in Macedonia 1944-1964

In the post World War II period Macedonia was a part of the SFRY and it had socialistic political system. This political system had an influence on the development of different professional institutions in the social and political life. Cultural policy also influenced the development of professional musicians of classical and contemporary music performances.

For the development of classical vocal practice in Macedonia in the period 1944-1964, it is necessary to look at the historical influences before 1944.

First of all it is the institution Srpsko Narodno Pozorishte in Skopje where plays and musical works of art were performed. In 1923 the operetta "Mam'zelle Nitouche" was performed, and in 1938 (for the first time in Macedonia on theatre stage) the opera "Cavaleria rusticana" by Pietro Mascagni was performed with opera singers who later will be the basis for the formation of Macedonian Opera in 1948 in a new political system in People's republic of Macedonia.

A second factor is the influence of the Russian emigrants in Macedonia in the period before World War II (Sergey Mihailov, Elisaveta Savchenko, Vladimir Devidenko etc.) With their musical culture and with their work in the towns of Macedonia where they stayed, they influenced the affirmation of Classical music and Classical vocal practice in Macedonia.

Third significant factor is the existence of Musical schools before World War II in Kingdom of SHS. Those were schools where the first macedonian professional musicians were educated, who later after 1944 will be the founders of music life in Macedonia (Stefan Gajdov, Dzivko Firfov, Todor Skalovski, Asparuh Hadji Nikolov, Trajko Prokopiev, Petre Bogdanov Kochko, Danka Firfova etc.)

But, in the period after 1944 according to the new political system and the influence of cultural policy, new professional musical institutions were formed in Macedonia that enabled the development of musical culture in Macedonia:

1. Macedonian Philharmonic Orchestra, which exists as an institution and symphonic orchestra until now a days.

2. Macedonian theatre with Opera, Ballet and Drama. The Macedonian Opera performed its first opera in 1947. It was the opera "Cavaleria rustikana" by Pietro Mascagni. This institution also performs now-a-days.

3. Radio Skopje, founded in 1944 as the first radio station in macedonian language. In Radio Skopje one of the departments is of classical music, where in the first years of its existence the music programmes were broadcasted live. This institution also works today.

4. Musical Schools. In the period after World War II the first Music school was opened in Skopje in 1945. Later music schools were opened in other towns throughout Macedonia: Bitola, Shtip, and others where pupils learned about classical music. The system of education was of primary and secondary music schools where a certain number of young people were educated and ready to attend a higher level of education. In 1966 the Faculty of Musical Art was founded in Skopje.

5. Other institutions (Association of the Composers of Macedonia, Association of Musical artists of Macedonia, Concert department of Macedonia etc.)

Having this information is only a part to reaching our goal, research of the influence of the cultural policy on the development of classical music vocal practice in Macedonia 1944-1964. That is why we did some more research from the articles in the daily newspapers. We made a database.

The main source was the newspaper "Nova Makedonija", as the only newspaper from this period (it was first printed 29.10.1949.) Later there were other newspapers printed in Macedonia. There are numbers of the newspaper dating from 1944. "Nova Makedonija" has everyday information of social life and music events in Macedonia and out of it.

Data collecting was at the National University Library "St. Kliment Ohridski" in Skopje.

Period of collecting – 1996

The data base has 3087 entries.

In the database we made creating fields:

1. Author ( it refers to the author of the musical articles)
2. Title (it refers to the title of the musical articles)
3. Year (date when the article was printed)
4. Genre ( the articles are of: classical, folk, popular music)
5. Soloists ( it refers to solo-performers who took part in the musical events mentioned in the articles)
6. Repertoire ( the programme performed ).

According to statistic processing of data the results are:

Distribution by genre shows that most information are about events of classical music. Although this is a period when mass culture is very noticeable, this data points out that cultural policy and the information factor influence the turning of the attention towards classical music (Table 1).

Entries	No	%
Classical music	2062	66,82%
Folk music	879	28,48%
Popular music	139	4,50%
Other	6	0,19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3086</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 1

Distribution of classical music entries shows that there is a greater number of music events in the period after 1950. That is to say, in the period up to

1950 the previously mentioned music institutions have already been founded, and after 1950 we can see that they have been busy organising musical events (Table 2).

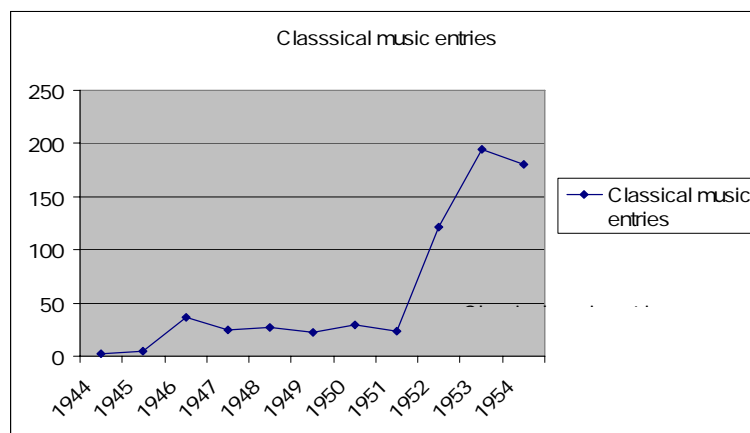


Table 2

Distribution by type shows the greatest number of announcements for music events. In this period, except for the great number of announcements of the concerts according to the form and contents the review also has information: a comment on how well the opera was performed, information on the libretto and what the audience should expect of the performers (Table 3).

Articles for Classical music	No	%
Announcement	1097	53,20%
Report	164	7,95%
Review	381	18,48%
Other	420	20,37%
Total	2062	100%

Table 3

According to distribution of articles about opera performances and vocal concerts, we can see a greater number of opera performances than solo vocal concerts (Table 4).

Articles	No	%
Opera performances	303	86.82%
Vocal concerts	46	13.18%
Total	349	100,00%

Table 4

According to origin of the repertoire of the Opera of the Macedonian National Theatre we can notice that the operas that were performed were by world famous composers. These operas are of the so called “iron repertoire” on the world stages. The existence of the Opera as an institution influenced the composing of the first macedonian opera- the operetta” Goce” in 1954 (Table 5).

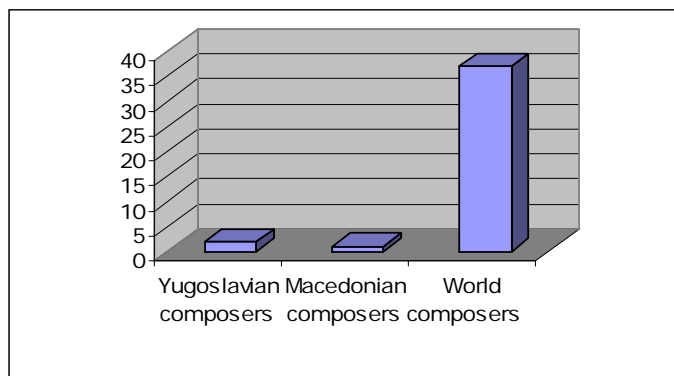


Table 5

In the period 1947-1964 (1947 –the first opera on MNT scene was performed), a total of 1252 opera performances were performed, which means 69.55 performances per year (Table 6).

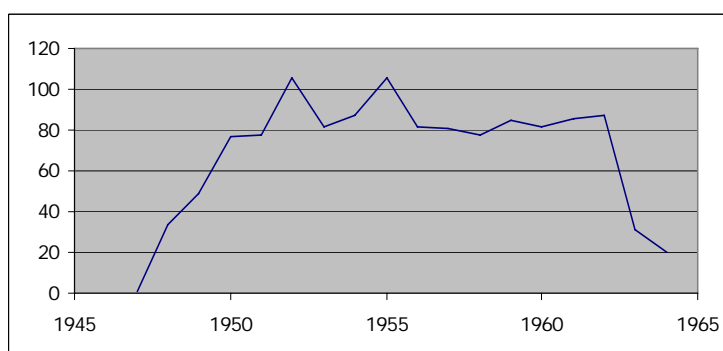


Table 6

In this period the opera performances were visited by total of 462,528 opera audience, or 25,695 opera audiences per year.

After analysing the data the results are:

- Cultural policy influenced the development of Classical music vocal practice in Macedonia 1944 – 1964,

- Cultural policy influenced the development of the Opera of the Macedonian National Theatre,

- The needs for vocal soloists influenced the development of musical education.

#### Bibliography:

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