

EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS OF MACEDONIAN CHORAL PRODUCTION

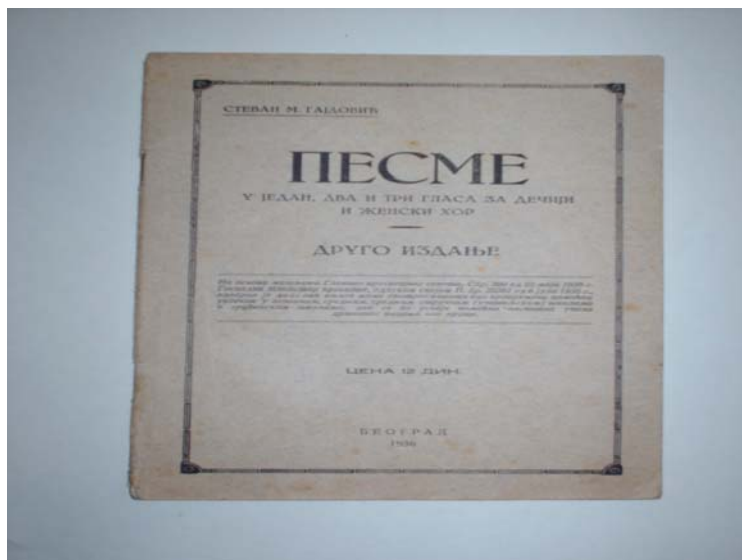
During the first half of the XX century, in Macedonia began the activity of the first generation of composers in whose works the choral music took a significant place.

The social conditions and the cultural politics of the period enabled the foundation of numerous choral ensembles, which acted in several towns. Under these circumstances emerged the first generation of macedonian composers, directing their professional activity both as composers and conductors of the choirs.

In their works from the period mentioned above we find compositions for various ensembles, mostly written for the choirs they worked with.

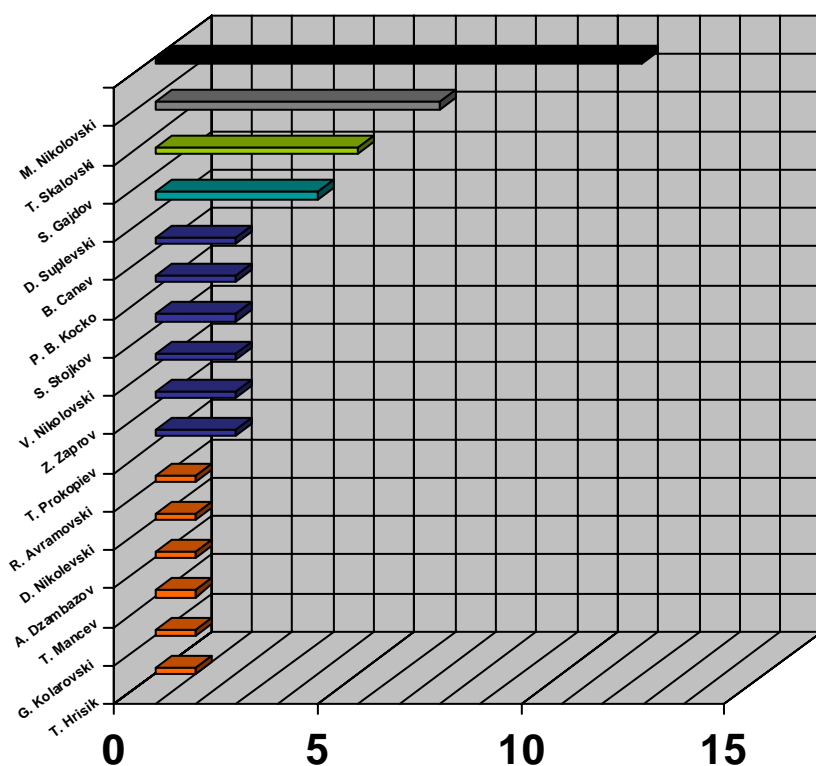
Their professional engagement took place in several towns in the former Yugoslavia.

In this work I pay attention to the children's choral literature, because I've been working with children's choir for three decades. The composers of the first generation had their beginnings during their school days in Belgrade. It is great pleasure for us to represent the example of an edition from that period, edited in Belgrade 1936, by unknown editor. It includes choral compositions written by Stefan Gajdov.



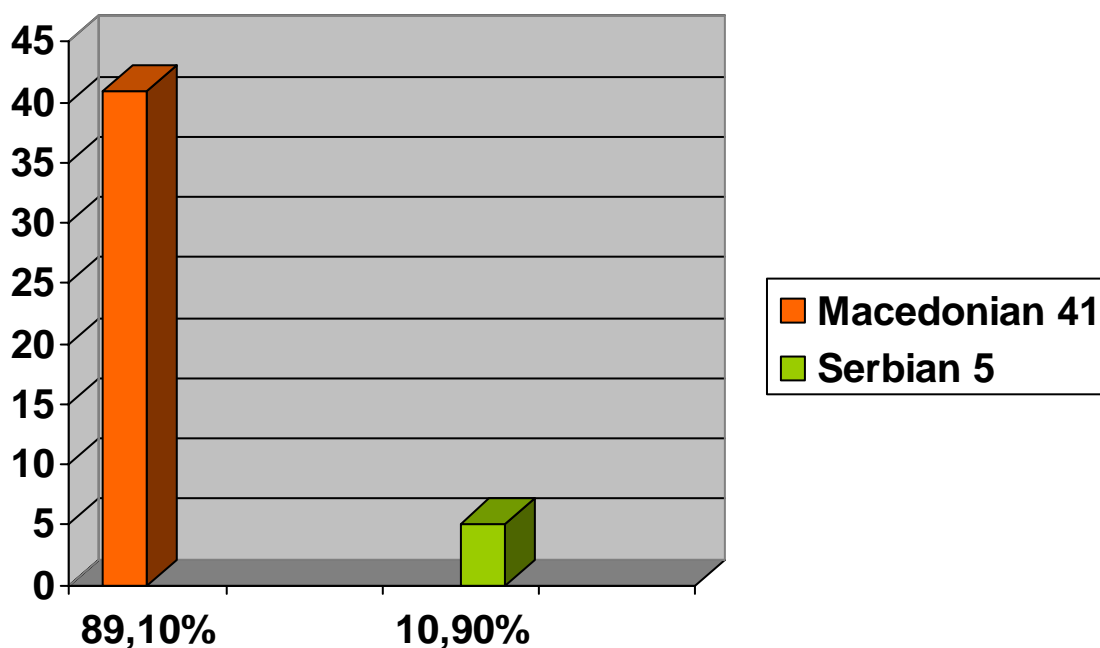
In order to obtain a full impression of the educational aspects of the macedonian choral works for children, we took as an example 46 compositions from 16 composers, representatives of different generations. All the compositions are to be performed without instrumental accompany.

The most represented composer is Mihajlo Nikolovski with 12 compositions, followed by Todor Skalovski -7, Stefan Gajdov -5, Dragan Shuplevski 4, and the rest of the with 2 or 1 composition.



On the occasion of the 45-th anniversary of the Association of the macedonian composers'a monography was published.This monography contains the works of all the members of the association,including 159 compositions for children's choir composed by 24 authors.According to my findings, this number could be much higher,because of the fact that many composers don't distinguish bethween children's and women's choir.There are compositions for children's choir with soloist,and compositions for choir with instrumental accompany.

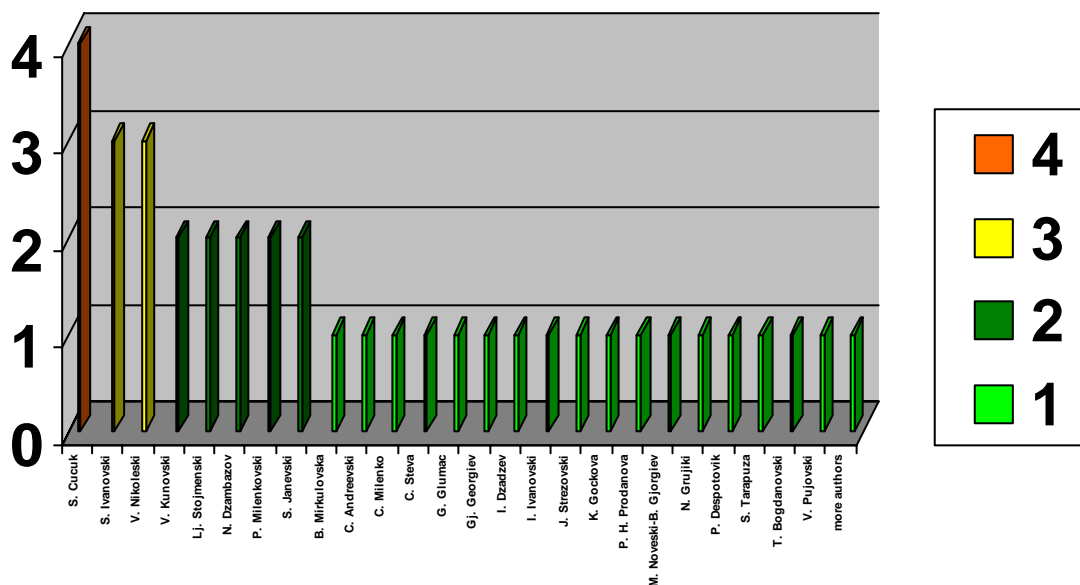
From the total number of compositions used in this research,41 compositions or 89,1% are written in macedonian language,while 5 compositions or 10,9% are in serbian language.



Twenty six writers are represented as authors of the words,among them S.Cucuk is author in 4 compositions,Srbo Ivanovski and Vancho Nikoleski in 3 compositions, and Vasil Kunoski, Ljupco Stojmenski, Nenad Dzhambazov,

Pero Milenkovski and Slevko Janevski in 2 compositions. All the others are represented with one composition.

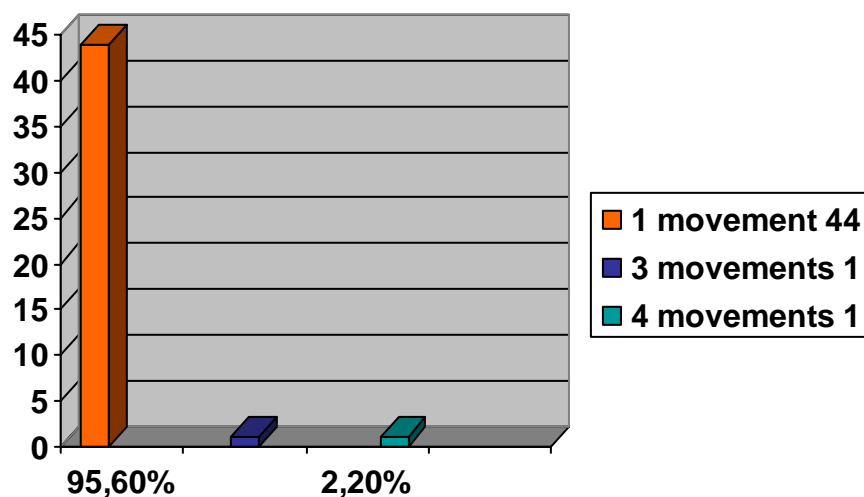
In one of the compositions the words originate from the children's folklore literature, while in 7 compositions the authors of the words are unknown.



It is noticeable that the macedonian composers paid much attention on the features and the value of the words. They usually choosed words with educational values, corresponding with the level of the intellectual capability of the choir-singers. We can assert that as the authors of the words we find the most eminent representatives of the macedonian literature.

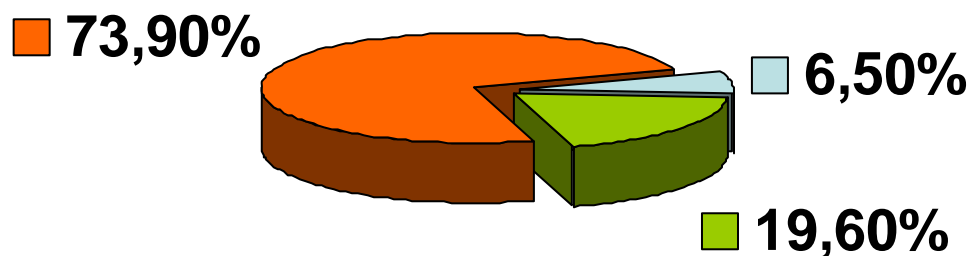
In three of the Stefan Gajdov,s compositions : "U shumici", "Majska pesma" and "Proletna pesna" the words have strophical structure.

From the total number of compositions included in this study, 44 compositions or 95,6% are written in one movement, one composition or 2,2% is in three movements, and one is in four-2.2%.



In the educational programmes brought by the macedonian Office for development of the education,two,three and four-voice choirs are provided for the primary schools.Depending on the activity of the choir,it makes 3 to 5 classes from the full number of classes the teacher has.

From the next example we see that 73,9% or 34 compositions are composed for 3-voice choir,19,6 or 9 compositions are for 4-voice choir,and 6,5 or 3 compositions are for 2-voice choir.



■ twovoice 3

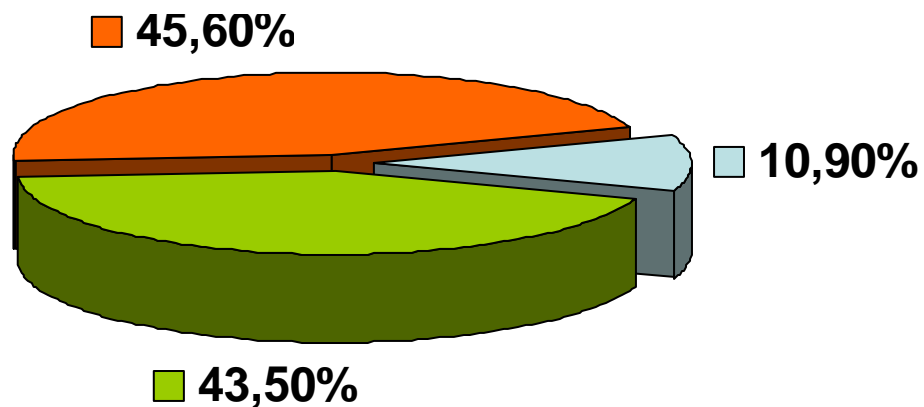
■ fourvoice 9

■ threevoice 34

With reference to the number of the measures, there is a certain variety. The shortest composition is "U shumici" by Stefan Gajdov containing 12 measures, and the longest one is "4 detski hora" with 259 measures, composed by Vlastimir Nikolovski.

- **S. Gajdov "U shumici" - 12 measures**
- **V. Nikolovski "4 detski hora" - 259 measures**

The next example refers to the format and it shows that 21 compositions or 45,6% are in manuscript, 20 or 43,5% are printed, while 5 of them were available both in manuscript and printed.



□ **printed/manuscript 5**

■ **printed 20**

■ **manuscript 21**

Particularly concerned about the creation of new compositions for children's choir during the past years were the Association of the macedonian composers, the festival "TEHO" and most of all the National competition of children's and youth choirs in Kavadarci, which contributed by ordering compositions for the needs of the competition.

The next table could use as an example:

- **P.B. Kocko – “Gu, gu, guk” – 1 place 1978**
- **M. Nikolovski – “Pesna” – 2 place 1978**
- **D. Suplevski – “Podsmevalka” – 1 place 1980**
- **M. Nikolovski – “Partizance” – 2 place 1984**
- **D. Suplevski – “Izbrkan mrak” - 3 place 1984**

Macedonian composers had special respect for the children's choral ensembles, as well as for the conductors, so some of the compositions are dedicated to them. Todor Skalovski dedicated "Cukni, cukni dzvonce" to the choir "Lale", Trajko Prokopiev dedicated "Prispivna" to the choir "Razvigorce", and Mihajlo Nikolovski dedicated "Carneval" to the conductor Ivica Zoric. Other similar examples could be found.

Every second year since 1964, the National competition in Kavadarci is being held, with participation of primary school choirs, as well as independent children's choral ensembles. All the participants have to pass through the communal, then the regional, and finally the national competition, with obligation to perform one composition written by macedonian author. This is the review of the obligatory compositions:

- **P.B. Kocko – “Gu, gu, guk” 1978**
- **D. Suplevski – “Podsmevalka” 1980**
- **M. Nikolovski – “Partizance” 1984**
- **D. Suplevski – “Izbrkan mrak” 1986**
- **D. Nikoleski – “Pirin” 1988**
- **D. Suplevski – “Tamburce” 1990**
- **M. Nikolovski – “Dozd” 1992**
- **B. Canev – “Pesna za peperutkata” 1994**
- **Z. Zaprov – “Cuden gostin” 2002**

Although there exists no publishing house that would print the choral literature in Macedonia, there are some institutions particularly concerned with editing the compositions for children's choir, in order to make them more available to the conductors and the ensembles, as well as to increase their affirmation. Some of the compositions mentioned above found their place in the books for musical education in the primary schools, in different editions and authors.

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 - 6.ZKM 1959-T.Prokopiev "Pesna na shturceto",V.Nikolovski"Dadicki"
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 - 20.Republicki festival na detski i mladinski horovi-Kavadarci-1986
 - 21.Republicki festival na detski i mladinski horovi-Kavadarci-1988
 - 22.Republicki festival na detski i mladinski horovi-Kavadarci-1990
 - 23.Republicki festival na detski i mladinski horovi-Kavadarci-1992
 - 24.Republicki festival na detski i mladinski horovi-Kavadarci-1994
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