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**CHAMBER-CONCERT HARBINS LIFE FIRST THIRD
OF THE 20th CENTURY IN REVIEWS OF PERIODICALS**

20's-30's years of the XX century in Harbin are connected with the period of the development of chamber concert life; they have created the emigrant circles (Russian and Ukrainian musicians) from Soviet Union. On the numerable concert stages – clubs, cinemas, musician shops, restaurants and open stages a lot of concerts of chamber music took place with participation of touring soloists-instrumentalists and the best local performers. The jazz bands were sounding everywhere.

Announcements about chamber music concerts highlighted the Harbin Russian language newspapers “Харбинский вестник”, “Новая жизнь” and “Рубеж” in the end of 20's-beginning of 30's.

In Ukrainian musicology the activity of many musicians, which were born in Ukraine but were working in the northern China town Harbin is still unknown.

The target of this article is to show the forms of chamber concert life of Harbin of the first third of XXth century, with the help of press materials, old posters and concert invitations.

The newspapers “Харбинский вестник”, “Новая жизнь” and “Рубеж” informed that “beside the regular acting of symphonic orchestra the great success had the concerts of the chamber music, which were performed by the best musicians of Russia: ”L.Aptekareva, O.Abaza, V.Trahtenberg, U.Goldstein, O.Pogodin, P.Ramensky, O.Dzygar, V.Ulstein, E.Kenig, M.Shiferblatt, M.Antipas-Metaksas, O.Shaevsky, Z.Ziskynd, M.Rodnenky, L.Plusnina, V.Bilousova, O.Lundstrem, V.Serebryakov and others [4; 5; 7].

In the end of 1920's in the town by the Railway community there appeared the first, regularly acting strings quartet with the following performers: the first string – M.Shiferblatt, second string – V.Trahtenberg, alt – J.Kenig, violin – I.Ulstein. These musicians with the help of their performing, pedagogic and social work influenced greatly the professional musical life of Harbin. Some of them continued musical career in China, others moved there as already well known in the musical life

Among them is violinist Mykola Shiferblatt, who was playing in the famous quartet of the duke Maklenburg-Strelitski in Petersburg for 20 years (1897-1917).

At the beginning of 1930's the violinist V. Trahtenberg headed the quartet and renewed the list of its participants. The origin of musicians which were invited by Trahtenberg was important – all of them were from Ukraine. Volodymyr Trahtenberg – from Kyiv (first string), Oleksandr Dzygar – was born in Harbin, his father was from Berdychiv (second string). Brothers Pogodiny came from Kharkiv: Grygoriy Pogodin (alt) and Oleksandr Pogodin (violin). The names of all participants of this quartet still remain unknown in Ukrainian musicology. While researching the archives (old posters and periodicals of Harbin 1930's) it became possible to get some information about them.

Oleksandr Dzygar (1916, Harbin-2011, Moscow) was born in Harbin in the military family, and came from Ukrainian village Bilashky near Berdychiv. The talented musician was always in the heart of cultural life of Ukrainian community of Harbin, took part in all art and cultural projects, which were organized in Ukrainian community in Harbin, periodically posted his articles in Ukrainian magazine “Молодий українець”. When he was 16, he joined the Ukrainian youth union, and in 1936 he was elected the head of youth nationalist organization Ukrainian Dalekoshidna Sich [3, 688]. From 1934 he was acting as a participant of the Trahtenberg quartet. Later, O.Dzygar was invited to become a soloist of ensemble “Yamato-Hotel” (Shenyang). In 1943-1945 he was working as a soloist of Harbins Symphonic Orchestra [4, 7].

In 1945 after the Soviet Army invaded Harbin, he was arrested and repatriated to the Soviet Union, where he was trialed for participation in Ukrainian organizations. Till April 1956 Dzygar was at Kolyma. In exile he was playing mandolin in amateur orchestra of Russian national instruments. After rehabilitation he moved to Magadan, where he was working at amateur theater (now Magadan Theater of Operetta) as a concertman, conductor, soloist stringer and art manager. In Magadan Dzygar founded musical school (now the musical school named after

J.S.Bach), where was working as a string teacher. In 1976 he moved to Moscow, where lived till the end of his life.

During the life in China, Oleksandr Dzygar became a laureate of two international string contests [2, 24]. Manchuria newspapers wrote a lot about his virtuoso playing, deep sound and excellent string literature knowledge. Very often Dzygar recorded compositions and took part in all actual concerts. His string was sounding at international contests, pleased the ears of the last representative of Manchuria dynasty of emperor Pui and the head of Nations Liga delegation Lord Liton [6, 63].

In 1940's Oleksiy Pogodin (1912-1960) was one of the most famous violinists in China. Many years he was working in the famous quartet of Trahtenberg, teaching the in musical schools of Harbin and Shanghai, and till the end of 40's performed in the squad of violinist orchestra of Harbins symphonic community as soloist. From 1956 was working as a conductor of symphonic orchestra in the Mukden town, and from 1959 – in Australian symphonic orchestras.

The proof of the solo acting of Pogodin is a poster of the Harbin symphonic community dated from 9 of December 1941, which documentedly presents his solo acting in the modern composition for violin with the orchestra "Kol Nidrey" of the Jewish composer M.Bruch.

There took place a lot of concerts with the participation of widely known violinists I.Kreitzer, J.Heifetz, O.Mogylevski, M.Elmann, cellist - Moris Marishal, pianst I.Godovski, O.Sklarevski and the winner of international contest named by Rubinstein, famous jewish pianist from Ukraine – Leo Syrota in Harbin in 1920-1930's.

While performing in Harbin (1928) Leo Syrota met young Russian pianist Oleksij Abaza, whom later he gave the lessons of piano playing in Vienna [1, 110].

To invite the director of Third Harbin musical school V.Gershgorina, he gave some piano lessons there [1, 129].

Touring Harbin played a great role in artistic life of the pianist. His concerts in the Railway community were visited by one of the most famous composers of Japan Kosaku Jamada. With the help of recommendation from Jamada L.Syrota he was working as a manger of piano department of Tokio Royal Academy Ueno (Japan) for 17 years.

A lot of talented pupils left the school, among them – the graduator of the first Harbin musical school – V.Bilousova.

From the end of 1920's the graduators of the highest musical school, who in the future became a world known performers – pianist Oleksiy Abaza (M.Goldstein class) and violinist Lyudmyla Plusnina (U.Goldstein class) were actively touring in Harbin.

Oleksiy Abaza (1916-1994) is a Russian pianist who was born near Harbin at the Jaomin station. After graduating from the Highest Harbin Musical School he started to study with the pianist Leo Syrota in Vienna and Leonid Kreitzer in Berlin

His first solo concerts O.Abaza performed in Tantzyn and Harbin (1935), which was a big success. In Harbin he gave solo concerts with Harbin symphonic orchestra and participated in the quarter of Harbins symphonic community. In 1938 he toured Japan, where he was accompanied by Aleksandr Mogylevski. In 1944 he was a winner of the contest of Manchuria composers, where he performed symphonic poem "Svitanok" [1, 167].

Lyudmyla Plusnina founded the Harbins women quartet, and performed in Harbin restaurants [5, 9]. The talented violinist participated a lot in the life of concerts organizations, which took place in "Kantylena" store.

Plusnina's initiative received its followers. There took place many meetings of talented performers of violin, cello, fortepiano, singers. She managed to launch regular musical meetings in the Hall of Railway community building, which were called "women' Wednesdays". From the point of view of the "Новая жизнь" newspaper the performings of Evgenia Levytina, Zinaida Bilokin, Valentyna Valytska who came to Harbin from Petersburg conservatory, became very famous.

A lot of chamber-instrumental concerts took place with the participation of pianist Lyubov Aptekareva. Together with violinist O.Shaevsky and cellist Z.Ziskind they played a trio of Gaidn, trio-sonata of Arensky, Chaikovsky, Rahmaninov.

Everywhere in Russian restaurants and hotels there appeared instrumental ensembles and small orchestras. Rich commersant Oleksandr Kaspe was sponsored two chamber orchestras in big Russian cinema "Modern".

Kaspe moved to Harbin from Russia and was one the first to make fortune at the Eastern Railway. He also became an owner of one of the most expensive jewelry stores in Harbin, several cinemas and the best hotel in Harbin – "Modern".

The repertoires of the concerts, which took place in cinemas, are evident from the programs. The most important invitation for the concert is dated from 26 of November 1926. The invitation of unknown person reads: "the Hotel Modern has an honor to invite You to take part by your person the Great Dance which take place on Wednesday 26 of November with the concert program of Rubistein. Waltz "Kapryz". Gypsy dance (soloist A.Bershadsky); Chaikovsky. Chardash from the ballet "The swan lake", the new gypsy romances (performed by Mikno); Dvorzak. Chopin.

Nokturne (performing by studio ensemble by Ms.Kolukovski). With the regards – administration of Hotel Modern”

The most important thing about this invitation is not a repertoire of the concert which was as a part of the program, neither is it a list of performers who are really famous. The most interesting are its attributes – the number of the invitation (536) and a stamp of the “Department of Concert Commission” of the Modern Hotel in Harbin, which are explicitly showing how serious and systematic the concert life was organized in the Hotel.

The Harbin newspaper “Новая жизнь” constantly described the high professionalism of chamber orchestras of the “Modern” cinemas, which by popularization of music kept the reputation of one of the most important musical stages of the time [4, 3].

The example of Kasje received its followers. Cinema “Atlantic”, which could gather 2000 viewers, was built in Harbin at the beginning of 1930’s! Beside cinematography the concerts took place there. Before long, networks of the new cinemas such as “Globus”, “Danilov”, “Dekadance”, “All world”, “Asia” and others, which alongside with showing movies regularly organized the concerts of chamber music. The concert stages of the cinemas played a big role in musical life of Harbin organizations.

Keywords: *chamber-musical life, quartet, ensemble performers.*

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