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*Zoryana Yuzyuk (Lviv, Ukraine)*

**MUSIC BY MYROSLAV SKORYK FOR PIANO DUO**

Music by Myroslav Skoryk, a composer, our prominent contemporary Ukrainian composer of worldwide fame, the pianist, People's Artist of Ukraine, the Laureate of T. Shevchenko Prize, Hero of Ukraine, the artist, who this year celebrates his 75th anniversary, is extremely popular. Composer's works in many different genres are often performed in concerts in Ukraine and in the world as well as are thoroughly investigated by musicologists. M. Skoryk's piano creative work has been resear-

ched by Lyubov Kyjanovska, Alla Zaderatska, Halyna Blazhkevych, Olexandra Tymoshchuk, Oxana Frayt. Kateryna Ivakhova's candidate's dissertation is devoted to artistic and didactic concept of M. Skoryk's piano oeuvre. In the context of different problems several jazz compositions and paraphrases for piano duo were examined by Volodymyr Romanko, Kateryna Ivakhova. Of topical interest is the study of M. Skoryk's creative work for piano duo, thus making the urgency and the purpose of this article. The tasks of this article are: M. Skoryk's original works of this genre, transcriptions of composer's works for piano duo by the very artist as well as by other authors' systematization, pedagogical and concert purpose of these works definition as well as these works' place in pianists' pedagogical and concert repertoire determination.

Myroslav Skoryk is a representative of progressive innovative tendencies in Ukrainian music. His creative concept reveals in constant employment of inexhaustible possibilities of Ukrainian, in particular, Carpathian folklore and folk forms of music performing. Characteristics of composer's style are: conciseness as well as depth of expression, classical definition of forms, bright national color. Composer embodied whole range of XX century classical academic and entertaining music in his creative work. "M. Skoryk's piano music is marked by genre variety, style diversity, artistic originality, it naturally combines universal principles, formed in the leading European composers' schools with national peculiarity, excellent usage of modern musical expression system and democracy of artistic expression, thanks to all these features his art gained sympathy of much wider audience, than it is basically typical for the modern academic music", - says Kateryna Ivakhova [3, p. 1].

Among the wide spectrum of M. Skoryk's creative interests, priority has a piano music genre, - because the composer is brilliant pianist by himself. Music for piano solo (3 concertos for piano and orchestra, polyphonic cycles, cycles of pieces and several separate works) as well as music for piano duo is in the artist's piano creative work. Thanks to great number of the author's works in piano duo genre, we can conclude, that such area is also important for the artist. M. Skoryk's music for piano duo consists of the author's works and paraphrases as well as transcriptions for both pianos in 4 hands and for 2 pianos of composer's original works in different genres by the artist and by other musicians.

The original author's works of this genre for 4 hands are: "Jazz paraphrases of L. Beethoven's pieces", "Pleasant walk" (from "Three jazz pieces" cycle); for 2 pianos: "In a trolleybus", "Three extravagant dances". The latter cycle comes in two versions: for piano in 4 hands and for 2 pianos (in Oxana Rapita's edition). The author's transcriptions of

own music are: “In folk style”, “Haunting melody” (from “Three jazz pieces” cycle). Of a special importance is a very popular work “Melody” from music to film “The high pass”. There are several author’s versions of this work, each of them are somehow connected with piano: for violin and piano, for piano solo and for 2 pianos.

Among author’s works and paraphrases is music of pedagogical (“In a trolleybus”) and concert purpose (“Melody”, “Three extravagant dances”, “Jazz paraphrases of L. Beethoven’s pieces”, “Three jazz pieces” cycles).

Because concerto for piano is of orchestra genre, it also can be considered as piano duo (when playing an orchestra part by second piano player); in this aspect it is worth mentioning the author’s three piano concertos. Concerto genre, in particular, for piano occupies a special place in M. Skoryk’s creative work. Among various concert performances of the composer’s piano concertos, the best example must be regarded as the author’s interpretation. The First concerto for piano and orchestra, written by composer to All-Union young pianists’ competition, belongs to the piano pedagogical concerto genre. In Ukrainian music this genre is found in creative work of Mykola Silvansky, Jury Znatokov, Kim Shutenko, Vsevolod Zaderatsky, and at the present stage – Bohdana Frolyak. The Second and Third piano concertos are the sequel at the present stage of concerto for piano and orchestra genre in Ukrainian music, found in the creative works of Stanislav Lyudkevych, Vasyl Barvinsky, Viktor Kosenko, Levko Revutsky, Anatoly Kos-Anatolsky, Viktor Kaminsky and others.

Considering transcriptions of M. Skoryk’s works by other musicians, it is worth emphasizing that according to the aim of M. Skoryk’s music introduction into pedagogical process and popularization, authors of transcriptions appeal to composer’s work in various genres: music for symphony orchestra (“Suite from the music to drama “Stone Host” by Lesya Ukrainka”, “Hutsul Triptych” in Leonid Drazhnytsya’s transcription for 2 pianos), music for wind orchestra (“Variations on a theme by S. Lyudkevych” by author collective – Gennady Lyashenko, Viktor Kaminsky, Yarema Yakubyak, Yuri Laniuk, Myroslav Skoryk in Nykodym Plaxyuk’s transcription for 2 pianos), music for violin and piano (“Melody” in transcription for piano in 4 hands by M. Skoryk’s student, composer Mykhailo Shved), variety of songs (“Lviv’s evening” in Nataliya Yuzyuk’s transcription for piano in 4 hands)<sup>1</sup>.

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Composer's art talent is unique and is displayed in optimistic attitude to the world, life-giving force of works' image sphere, refinement of aesthetic taste, and harmoniousness in different style means of expressions combining. M. Skoryk's music for piano duo is composed on folk, classical, jazz basis. It also presents "style game" category, which is typical for the author's creative work. According to composer's opinion: "...every modern artist must be aware of the newest techniques and be able to speak the language of his time, but I am persuaded, that this is correct and necessary only where it is stipulated by actual need..."<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, while representing various stylistic trends, enriching and renewing musical language, both adhering to classical principles of academic performing and adding elements of improvisation, composer skillfully recreates modern sound pictures. With special pertinent all these features are introduced in music of pedagogical purpose, - as it is known, that child's learning process is more simplified, if it is made in the form of interesting game. Elements of game, which are mostly important for performers of elementary and even middle school age in music of pedagogical repertoire as well as directly connected with the game improvisation, (samples of which are presented in most works of artist), which is one of the main components of musical education on the modern stage, are intensified by jazz stylistics (also as in "From the children's album" music), - which help to achieve one more didactic goal, namely: approach of entertainment and academic arts.

The author of research monographs on composer's creative work, musicologist, professor Lyubov Kyjanovska believes: "Skoryk's universality of thought astonishes first of all with its flexibility, inexhaustible possibilities of free semantic combinations, which open behind the curtain of what is known, experienced and comprehended – to something surprising, curious and unexpected in its essence..." [4, p. 109]. All these features are presented in composer's creative work in piano province, especially, in piano duo genre. In the opinion of Oxana Rapita (performer of the composer's many piano works – solo and ensemble with Myroslav

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library researchers (previously – "Tetyana and Omelyan Antonovych palace of arts" division) at Vasyl Stefanyk Lviv national science library of Ukraine for music materials and literature for selected subject of research.

<sup>2</sup> Quoted after: Л. Кияновська. Мирослав Скорик: людина і митець [Текст] : монографія / Любова Кияновська; ред. В. Сивохіп. – Львів: Вид-во журналу "І", 2008. – Р. 52.

Dragan), editor of piano works collection of artist (to 70-years anniversary of Maestro), the most important features of M. Skoryk's piano works are: "...energy fullness and sincerity of expression, pithiness, eventually, vitality of composer's music, it's being unique – in possibilities of versatile, multivector interpretation, thanks to bright national color enabling for important human truth expressing, and besides subtle humor, and even irony, - high spirituality and depth of music" [13, p. 3].

Summarizing the abovementioned, it is worth marking, that M. Skoryk's music for piano duo is bright phenomenon in Ukrainian musical culture. Presented with significant number of original work in this genre, transcriptions of composer's works for piano duo by the very artist as well as by other authors, M. Skoryk's music occupies an important place in pianists' pedagogical and concert repertoire. Author's music of this genre is presented in young pianists' competitions' programs; it is an adornment in pianists-virtuosi concert programs. Music by Myroslav Skoryk is very popular at all continents, the evidences of which are numerous recordings of Ukrainian and foreign performers.

Further investigation of music for piano duo by Myroslav Skoryk should be realized in pedagogical, concert-performing and comparative-interpretational aspects.

**Keywords:** *Myroslav Skoryk, piano duet, pedagogical purpose, concert repertoire.*

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