

DIPLOMA WORK

Michalis HADJIVASSILIOU : AKIS PAVLOU – MUSIC COMPOSER AND TEACHER

Diploma work about Akis Pavlou- composer and teacher- is a credible contribution to the interesting subjects of foreign alumni. Though the student aimed his book after all at the person he wanted to introduce, the reader can find there many valuable general datum. I assume that the work contains the first comprehensive list of Cypriot musicians, which embraces the theoretists, musicologists, teachers, interpreters playing various instruments and conductors. Diploma work discloses the history of country, where the social and cultural system didn't allow and didn't mediate any musical development in the field of classical music until the later 20th century. Thus the main inspiration and model for composing and performing music was folk art.

The biographies of noticed world known musicians (such as Solon Michaelides, Savvas Savva, Nicolas Economou, Martino Timiro, Fedros Kavallaris, Michalis Georgiou, Agis Ioannides, Spyros Pisinou and others) disclose that they were often educated abroad; some composers were influenced by the German, Russian and American style, which is remarkable also in jazz inspirations. And there are some admirable things from our point of view: among successful men we find also women devoted to composing(Marina Paganiotou or Giorgina Stratti). And the further fact: how young are the important representatives of Cypriot generation where some dates of their birth show the years 1970 and 1980! Maybe that the lack of the older musical history can be balanced by extraordinary wide and fast expansion of modern media concerning not only origin of classical compositions and operas but also music embracing many integral arts and genres. When watching the rise of today orchestras, ensembles, theatres, festivals and educational system we find the symptoms of such evolution.

Mr. Hadjivassiliou devoted the main attention towards his teacher- a composer Akis Pavlou. The conception of his approach led the student to divide the chapters into logical sections referring to Pavlou relation with Cypriot society, to his biography and role of a teacher, who wrote several excellent textbooks. In this field Hadjivassiliou explains the composer's opinions of the Greek and English systems of teaching. Twice he was engaged in comparison of Pavlou's theory book with Eric Taylor's book; once in the analytic text and for the second in the table of supplements. I think that publishing this material don't need any commentary. The differences are quite clear.

Pavlou's biography is very interesting. It is fascinating to follow fate of a man who had to pass so many trials, misunderstanding and overpower so many obstacles on the way towards his musical vision. We can feel how Mr. Hadjivassiliou appreciate the personage of his teacher illustrating his hard personal experiences. The style of the language is elegant and bears the marks of specific cordial and emotive accent. Some critical facts ensue from the private stories: they concern the old methods of education at Cyprus, lack of knowledge about style epochs and performing manners, animosity between pedagogues, non professional approach to the theory and harmony. On the other hand Mr. Hadjivassiliou follows the efforts of Mr. Pavlou who arose in the new century as a leading authority in the field of education. He issued the needed books Theory of Music and he and his wife founded the independent musical school, very popular today in Cyprus.

In a separate chapter student depicts variable kinds of Pavlou's studio's activities with all the troubles and great artistic responsibility which bears this technical work.

A specific interest is devoted to A. Pavlou's compositions. The analysis of selected five pieces (Nocturne, The Troubadour, Greek Dance, Nostalgic Voyage and Kyrie) contains the plan of harmony, tonality, type of form, expressive value, respectively the educational aim. Hadjivassiliou analyses are complete as he chose clear, not very complicated examples. I truly appreciate that he joined the scores and recording (CD) of analysed compositions to his diploma work.

Notices: correct the name Skalkota (p. 20) for Skalkotas

Solon Kladas conducted a Czech choir of long time tradition, called Smetana.

Singing at concerts Smetana joined with other choirs and performed as Male Choirs of Prague

Questions: Several Cypriatic students graduated also from Prague Conservatory, among them Mr. Atthanassis a teacher of previous students of Ped. F UK

(for example Christina Leventi).Do you know him?

What is the connection between Aphrodite Festival (1998) and National Opera in Poland?

How do you see the future of Cypriatic classical music? Do you know any recipe how to achieve the higher degree of musical knowledge in your country and what will you recommend to do for this aim?

Classification of diploma work

Excellent

