

**THE MALE VOCAL ENSEMBLE "BREVIS" OF VINNYTSIA COLLEGE OF CULTURE AND ARTS NAMED AFTER M. D. LEONTOVYCH: ITS CREATIVITY AND VALUE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF VOCAL ART OF VINNYTSIA REGION**

**Purpose of Research.** The purposes of the article are to determine the features of creative activity and to generalize the artistic achievements of the vocal ensemble "Brevis" of Vinnytsia college of Culture and Arts named after M. D. Leontovych. **Methodology.** The methodology is based on such scientific methods as analysis, synthesis, comparison, generalization and the systematical and practical approaches. The methodological approach allows to analyze the creative principles of the all-male a cappella group "Brevis" and to find out its contribution to the development of vocal art of Vinnytsia region and Ukraine. It also gives an opportunity to characterize the features of creative activity of the mentioned ensemble. **Scientific Novelty.** The scientific novelty of work consists in the complete study of the theoretical and practical heritage of the Ukrainian vocal ensembles, the analysis of their artistic experience and the determination of the role of the local vocal groups in the development of vocal art. **Conclusions.** The author underlines the important role of the ensemble "Brevis" creativity for the development and popularization of vocal art in Vinnytsia region and Ukraine. The creative peculiarities of the of the vocal ensemble "Brevis" are the active musical education, participation in numerous musical performances, concerts, festivals and competitions, promotion of the Ukrainian traditional songs and contemporary vocal compositions, the genre-stylish variety of repertoire and the high-level of vocal performing.

**Key words:** the vocal ensemble "Brevis", vocal art, creative activity, repertoire, performers.

*Сідлецька Тетяна Іванівна, кандидат мистецтвознавства, доцент, доцент кафедри філософії та гуманітарних наук Вінницького національного технічного університету*

**Творча діяльність чоловічого вокального ансамблю "Бревіс" Вінницького училища культури і мистецтв ім. М. Д. Леонтовича та її значення для розвитку вокального мистецтва Вінниччини**

**Мета** – визначення особливостей творчої діяльності чоловічого вокального ансамблю "Бревіс" Вінницького училища культури і мистецтв ім. М. Д. Леонтовича та розкриття її значення для розвитку вокального мистецтва Вінниччини. **Методологія** дослідження полягає у застосуванні методів аналізу, синтезу, порівняння, узагальнення, а також у використанні системного і діяльнісного підходів. Це дало змогу здійснити аналіз творчих засад чоловічого вокального ансамблю "Бревіс", з'ясувати внесок колективу у розвиток вокального мистецтва на Вінниччині і в Україні та розкрити особливості творчої діяльності згаданого ансамблю. **Наукова новизна** полягає у поглибленні вивчення теоретичних і практичних надбань українських вокальних ансамблів, аналізі їхнього мистецького досвіду та визначенні ролі вітчизняних колективів у розвитку вокального мистецтва. **Висновки.** Особливостями творчої діяльності згаданого колективу є: активна музично-просвітницька і концертна діяльність, що сприяє задоволенню естетичних потреб широкої слухачької аудиторії; популяризація творів сучасних вітчизняних і зарубіжних композиторів та української народної пісні; жанрово-стильова розмаїтість репертуару; володіння прийомами і засобами, характерними для різних вокально-виконавських манер; висока професійна майстерність виконавців.

**Ключові слова:** вокальний ансамбль "Бревіс", вокальне мистецтво, творча діяльність, репертуар, виконавці.

*Сідлецькая Татьяна Ивановна, кандидат искусствоведения, доцент, доцент кафедры философии и гуманитарных наук Винницкого национального технического университета*

**Творческая деятельность мужского вокального ансамбля "Бревис" Винницкого училища культуры и искусств им. Н. Д. Леонтовича и ее значение для развития вокального искусства Винниччины**

**Цель работы** – выявление особенностей творческой деятельности мужского вокального ансамбля "Бревис" Винницкого училища культуры и искусств им. Н. Д. Леонтовича и раскрытие ее значения для развития вокального искусства Винниччины. **Методология** исследования заключается в использовании методов анализа, синтеза, сравнения, обобщения, а также в применении системного и деятельностного подходов. Это позволило проанализировать творческие основы мужского вокального ансамбля "Бревис", определить вклад коллектива в развитие вокального искусства на Винниччине и в Украине, и раскрыть особенности творческой деятельности данного ансамбля. **Научная новизна** работы заключается в углублении изучения теоретических и практических достижений украинских вокальных ансамблей, анализе их художественного опыта и определении роли отечественных коллективов в развитии вокального искусства. **Выводы.** Особенности творческой деятельности данного коллектива есть: активная музыкально-просветительская и концертная деятельность, которая способствует удовлетворению эстетических потребностей широкой аудитории слушателей; популяризация произведений современных отечественных и зарубежных композиторов и украинской народной песни, жанрово-стилевое разнообразие репертуара; высокое профессиональное мастерство исполнителей.

**Ключевые слова:** вокальный ансамбль "Бревис", вокальное искусство, творческая деятельность, репертуар, исполнители.

Actuality of the topic. Ukrainian vocal art is definitely an important part of our traditional heritage, a cultural treasure that has been preserved up to date. Due to its deep spiritual essentiality the vocal art supports the national revival of artistic values as well as the cultural development of modern Ukrainian society. It is definitely important to give the scientific comprehension for Ukrainian vocal achievements. The special attention must be paid to Ukrainian vocal groups. Their creativity and performing practice should be studied deeply and thoroughly.

Review of the studies is based on the works of Ukrainian and foreign musicologists such as B. Hnyd, M. Lvov and O. Stachevych [2; 10; 12]. Theoretical and methodological aspects of vocal and solo singing training have been described by V. Antonyuk, L. Dmytryev, I. Kolodub [1; 4; 9]. Natalia Grebenyuk has dealt with the problem of a professional singer's vocal-performing creation and both psychical-pedagogical and art studying aspects in her doctor's thesis [3]. Despite the extensive literature and scientific findings there is an urgent need to study the creativity of individual vocal groups, especially among the art students' bands. It is an art school vocal ensemble that helps to form the performing staff, update the repertoire, and improve the singing skills. The creativity of such bands combines high professional level with academic vocal traditions.

The vocal ensemble "Brevis" is an undergraduate all-male a cappella group created by Vinnytsia college of Culture and Art named after M. D. Leontovych as a part of music education.

Although the vocal group is a prominent phenomenon of Vinnytsia region musical life its creativity has not been studied completely yet. Only the brief history of the band has been mentioned in the work dedicated to the 50-th anniversary of Vinnytsia college of Culture and Art named after M. D. Leontovych [11]. The local press also gives some information about the vocal ensemble "Brevis" on the regular basis.

The purpose of the article is to give the scientific estimation of Ukrainian vocal art achievements as well as the complete study of modern Ukrainian vocal ensemble creativity.

Presentation of the main material. At the beginning of investigation it is important to determine the meaning of two close phenomena: "creativity" and "vocal-performing practice". According to The Dictionary of Philosophy, "creativity is a phenomenon whereby something new and somehow valuable is formed" [13, 670]. N. Grebenyuk gives such definition: a) meaningful human action; b) action for material or spiritual values creation; c) development of systematic self recognition [3, 8]. There are two approaches in the interpretation of "vocal-performing practice". On the one hand, as a socio-cultural phenomenon it is a special kind of an artistic-creative work. On the other hand, as a personal phenomenon it has some specific features and ways of development. The object of vocal-performing practice is a piece of music or a song, as far as its subject is a performer or a band.

According to the thesis about musical performance as a musical cultural phenomenon and vocal-performing activity outlined in the works of V. Antoniuk, N. Grebeniuk, N. Zhaivoroniuk, O. Stachevych we can consider the creativity of "Brevis" vocal group as the special activity, which creates the new artistic values. Their vocal-performing practice has produced the artistic quality of a real song production, consisting of the artistic song value and its technical and aesthetic playback.

All-male a cappella group "Brevis" was founded in 1997 by Yaroslav Kushka, a teacher of Vinnytsia college of Culture and Art named after M. D. Leontovych, who had graduated from Lviv National Music Academy named after M. V. Lysenko. A talented vocal coach he made all his best to create the high level of the vocal group. It was his dedication, professional and organizing skills that helped the ensemble "Brevis" to gain quick success and public recognition. As a voice teacher Y. Kushka formed the repertoire using the best examples of traditional Ukrainian folkloric and folk-inspired lyric songs. He paid special attention to sound coherence, performing skills and professional level of the whole group and each participant. During rehearsals the band worked on the text, intonation, dynamics and phrasing very carefully. Y. Kushka concentrated on the artistic inspiration and paid much attention to the deep insight into the music. He instructed his young performers to show the character of each song with the help of their voice, facial expressions and gestures. The artist emphasized their ability to interact with the audience and to share feelings and emotions, such as joy, exaltation or pride. The ensemble performed songs a cappella in 4 part harmony. There were eight members in the group: 2 countertenors, 2 tenors, 2 baritones and 2 basses. When necessary, the group could be extended to 12 members. The group was renewed at the beginning of each academic year.

In 2016 the basic of repertoire included Ukrainian folk songs arranged by Ukrainian composers Y. Antkiv, M. Kolessa, M. Leontovych, S. Ludkevych, M. Rakiv, Y. Stepovy, K. Stetsenko, V. Shkilnyuk, V. Yakymets and Y. Yatsynevych. Various genres were presented as well as ritual songs (over 40 Kolyadkas (Carols) and Shchedrivkas (Carol of the Bells), epic and historic (6 Cossack songs, 4 striletski songs, 3 povstanski (insurgent) songs) and 28 non-ritual lyric songs. The band also performed foreign folk songs in Polish, Czech, Italian and Moldovan. The numerous vocal works of Ukrainian composers (O. Bilash, S. Vorobkevych, H. Hladky, V. Ivasyuk, A. Kos-Anatolsky, T. Petrynenko, I. Poklad, R. Savytsky) were also in the band repertoire. The particular place was given to the vocal themes about Podillia and Vinnytsia conducted by S. Gorodynsky, R. Skaletsky, V. Tkachenko, V. Shvets. The liturgical works of D. Bortnyansky, P. Diniov and Y. Yatsynevych have had the very special significance for the ensemble "Brevis" creativity. The total number of compositions in repertoire was 120. Such genre style variety has confirmed the great creativity of the band and has made it equal to a professional a cappella group.

Making the repertoire selection the artistic director took into consideration performance capabilities of the group participants. Y. Kushka has made song arrangements by himself. His creative heritage is about 50 compositions from Ukrainian and world music. Y. Kushka has tried to make musical compositions not only easy to perform, but to reveal as much as possible the timbre colorfulness of the ensemble. Performing skills of the vocal group has improved gradually and the ensemble "Brevis" started its intensive concert activity. Soon the group has got recognitions and awards. It got the first prize at Kyiv International Art Contest-Festival "Art Premium 2008", the diploma at II Bortnianskyi International competition in Kyiv, 2011, II prize at International Contest-Festival "Musical meetings at Branitsky Hall" in Bila Tserkva 2009, II prize at Ukrainian Junior Festival-Contest "Surmy Zvytiaky (Trumpets Victory)" in Lviv, 2007 and the I prize at the same contest in 2008 and 2013. Besides, the band took a regular part in final gala concerts "Surmy Zvytiaky (Trumpets Victory)" in Lviv National Opera. Such achievements of the ensemble have shown the high level of the vocal art and performing skills.

As a participant of art projects in Vinnytsia city and region the ensemble "Brevis" made a notable contribution to preservation and development of the most valuable Ukrainian musical achievements. The band took part in the art project "Leontovych Choral Assembly" and the events dedicated to the 135-th anniversary of the composer. The vocal performance "Vid koliady do siohodennia (From Carols to Contemporary Music)" during the opening of the annual Youth Music Forum "Barvy Musyky XX storichia. (Colors of XX century Music). Avant-garde. Classic. Jazz", provided by Vinnytsia Regional Philharmonic has become the outstanding event for Vinnytsia cultural life. The ensemble "Brevis" has performed a cappella choral music of the XX century of Podillia composers as well as modern music compositions and enjoyed the great success and audience recognition.

The band also gave their concerts in towns and villages of Vinnytsia region (Khmilnyk, Tulchyn, Ladyzhyn). During a year the ensemble "Brevis" held about 20 concerts. That was a very intensive activity, especially taking into consideration the fact that the main task of the band was their musical education. In our opinion, such cultural activity of the ensemble "Brevis" and their participations in Vinnytsia art projects are very important because it promotes development of the vocal art in the whole region. As a result of the creative activity, in 2014, "Brevis" released their first album. It began with the song "Ride on, Jesus, Ride" by the American liturgical composer Marty Haugen. All the rest were Ukrainian songs arranged by R. Ivansky, Y. Kushka, M. Leontovych, Y. Stepovy and others.

It was 2017, when the new period of the band development started. Maxym Dzivaltivsky has become a new vocal director. A teacher of Vinnytsia college of Culture and Art named after M. D. Leontovych, he graduated from Kharkiv National University of Arts named after I. P. Kotlyarevsky. M. Dzivaltivsky has been working with vocal technique improvement of the group and each participant. It is the main factor of the level of performing skills as well as the crucial criterion for the revealing of artistic contest of the vocal composition. The new director pays attention to intonation and ensemble string in combination with the proper voice statement. In his opinion, the main components of the vocal performance are the high level of the sound formation manner and the whole rapport of band participants. M. Dzivaltivsky artistic principles are based on the cast extending, the repertoire enrichment with modern vocal compositions and learning the new styles and genres of vocal music. At the moment there are 14 members of the band: 2 countertenors, 3 tenors, 5 baritones and 4 basses. They sing a cappella or with electro instrumental accompaniment.

Nowadays the "Brevis" creative credo is the popularization of Ukrainian contemporary and traditional songs as well as the world vocal compositions. It is a quite innovation to rich the repertoire with the songs of an American composer Eric Edward Whitacre. He is known for his "Virtual Choir" project, bringing individual voices from around the world together into an online choir. The ensemble "Brevis" has performed his composition "Fly to Paradise", in which choral works are combined with modern club music. Electronic musical and dancing accompaniments, light special effects are used in the composition. Another English songs from the group repertoire are "Rolling in the Deep" by Adele and "Enjoy the Silence" by Depeche Mode. Ukrainian contemporary music is presented by the song "Misto nad Bugom (The City on the Bug river)", created by the Vinnytsia composer S. Gorodynsky. These examples of modern popular music in the group repertoire have shown their style extension and orientation on the youth audience. It helps to cultivate the vocal art among young people. The important place in the repertoire is taken by baroque compositions (Tomaso Albinoni "Adagio"), spiritual music (Ukrainian cantus "Cherez Pole Shyrokeye (Through the Field is Wide)" by M. Leontovych), Ukrainian folk songs arranged by the band director ("Kazav Meni Batko (My Father Has Told Me)", "Svity Misiachenku (Shine, the Moon)", "Tsvite Teren (The Blackthorn is Blooming)"). These compositions are characterized by the high level of performing skillfulness, the professional approach to the folk music and the vocal timbre range. By singing compositions from different genres, styles and epochs, the vocal group has created the historical context of matches between traditions, innovations, folk, classic and modern art. Such extending range of vocal genres and styles helps to improve performing skills of the young singers. They become familiar with genres of vocal music from different historical periods.

The creativity of the ensemble "Brevis" is based on the classical vocal technique. It is characterized by the Germanic covered sound, the local manner of vocal tract, the unified articulation, the singing in a range of two octaves and the classical vocal compositions performing [1]. On the other hand, the contemporary singing takes certain place in the group repertoire. That is why the new means of expression

such as a rhythmic speech, specific methods of intonation and sound creation are also used. The main features of the ensemble "Brevis" performing style are the intonation clearness and expression, sound coherence, rich emotions and high vocal professional level.

Conclusions. It is important to emphasize the special place of the vocal creativity of the group "Brevis" in the development and popularization of vocal art in Vinnytsia region and Ukraine. The next peculiarities of their creative activity should be mention: active participation in the vocal concerts, festivals and art performances, promotion of Ukrainian traditional and contemporary vocal compositions as well as the best examples of the world vocal art; the wide genre and style variety of the repertoire; the high professional level of vocal performance and use of various vocal methods and means, characteristic to different vocal-performing styles.

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Стаття надійшла до редакції 11.02.2018 р.