

Exploration of Bulgarian Culture Through Choral Music: Interpretation of Secular Folklore and Sacred Orthodox Traditions

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Abstract

The presentation is a fast-paced, interactive, educational, and entertaining introduction to Bulgarian and Eastern Orthodox music. Areas of study include an examination of Bulgarian musical folklore, a historical perspective of the particular characteristics of Bulgarian musical folklore according to song types, folklore regions, rhythm and meter, and scales and modes. The selected illustrative works vary by voicing, level of difficulty, texture, textual and harmonic content, form and style. The attendees will read and listen to the musical examples and learn to perform brief excerpts while receiving vocal and language instruction on singing in Bulgarian. The presenter will demonstrate applicable folk dances that appropriately accompany the songs, thus arming the attending arts and humanities professionals with a complete package of tools to seek, find, listen to, learn, and teach Bulgarian music in a culturally correct manner in accordance with the Bulgarian performance practice. The workshop allows the audience to catch a glimpse of the original, opulent, and multifaceted culture of this small Balkan country.

Outline of Presentation

- I. Historical Background
- II. Bulgarian and Eastern Orthodox Sacred Music
Ecclesiastical Function and Byzantine Influences
(musical illustrations – scores and video/audio recordings)
Composers: John Kukulizis, Tavener, Hurko
Illustrative Compositions: *Song for Athene*, *Bohoroditse Divo*
- III. Orthodox Music Tradition

Church Slavonic – Russian, Bulgarian, Serbian
Transliteration from Old Church Slavonic –
rules and exceptions, examples

Representative Composers and Their Works for Analysis and Discussion:

(musical illustrations – scores and video/audio recordings)

Chesnokov	<i>Hvalite Ghospoda s nebes, Milost mira</i>
Golovanov	<i>Our Father</i>
Taneyev	<i>Prayer</i>
Rubtsov	<i>Veniki</i>

IV. Bulgarian Secular Music

Characteristics of the Bulgarian Folklore Musical Culture

A. Folk Songs Divisions By Type

1. Ritual Songs
2. Labor Songs
3. Koledarski Songs

B. Bulgarian Musical Folklore Regions

1. Pirin Region
2. Rhodope Region
3. Thrace Region
4. Shoppe Region
5. Dobrudzha
6. North Central and North West Bulgaria

C. Rhythm and Meter in the Bulgarian Musical Folklore

1. Simple Meters
2. Compound Meters
 - a. Even Compound Meters
 - b. Odd Compound Meters
3. Changing meters
 - a. Combined Metrical Groups
 - b. Heterometrical Rows
4. Non-metered, or in free meter

D. Scales And Modes In Bulgarian Musical Folklore

1. Diatonic
2. Pentatonic
3. Chromatic
4. Enharmonic

V. Bulgarian Folk Music in American Pop-Culture (motion pictures)

VI. Music for Singing Illustrations (sheet music examples provided by presenter)

Polegnala e Todora

Bre Petrunko
Katerino mome
Trugnala Rumjana
Sednalo e Djore Dos

VII. Singing and Dancing Lessons and Demonstrations
Pravo horo
Lesnoto horo
Rachenitza