

SATURDAY ACQUINTANCE

Music is not only the great miracle that was created to gift people joyfulness and light experience, but also the great sacrament. Today we have an opportunity to lift the curtain of that mystery as well as to know more about such ambiguous and controversial theme as the modern music. The help with the answering will be provided by the student of 3d grade of Moscow State Conservatory Tatiana Gerasimenok, the participant of VI International academy of young composers that has ended two weeks ago in our city.

- Tatiana, eventually what is the modern music? Today I have a strong belief that if the music doesn't have a melody, harmony and rhythm so that is modern music...

- For me modern music is the music that describes its own era. Not every person is able to feel his time from the inside, but an artist – either he is composer, painter or poet, has to be sensitive person who perceives and describes his era through the prism of personal attitude. Must be taken into account that the eras changes leads to the change not only the appearance of the people, their manners, moral categories, but the perception of the surrounding realities made by the human mind, as well as the ways of interrelation are modified. The human transforms the era, and then he transforms by himself. Accordingly to that, the art can't stay unchangeable as it is the important branch of human being. The art is just a mirror of the society at any period of its existing. More correct question should be: "Do you like the modern society?". I have nothing to compare. The human is limited with time range of approximately 100 years. What is it in comprising with the next or previous period of planet Earth existence? There is practical sense to think about better or worth time only within the above mentioned diapason. If in times of Chopin the sentimental melodies were the norm, so now they can't describe our era fairly. But who, if not me?

- We are unlucky people judging by modern music...

- I don't think that you love flattery to your address. So why should we flatter to our era? Serious art shouldn't sweeten or please, growl is not its way, so each person has to choose the way according to its human qualities in order not to suffer within their own adaptation. When the Beethoven contemporaries have heard his late works, they said that it wasn't music at all! But he just was sensitive to the surroundings and was able to describe it for us, who can't be presented on that time period. Now we perceive his music easily and adequately because we have adapted to the transformation of human that he tried to tell us about.

- I can say more: Tchaikovsky – the God of Russian music was known as composer-avant-gardist in Russian and his music was met with hostility. Only after his recognition abroad his music came back to the Motherland and he became the great composer...

- Our modernity often includes revolutions, wars, rapid development of science and technologies - all it influence on each of us. The creator should tell about things that bother him, and above noted can't fail to excite.

I, as the person who knows history of music, can compare modern and non-modern art, but if I start to create a la Chopin, then I'll become a liar for my era. It is not a problem to imitate the music manner of other eras, but do we arise the question of creation the fair music or do we just speaking about the entertainment? If we are talking about the entertainment, why shouldn't I come on interview in the dress with crinoline and in half-meter powdered wig? It could be strange view, and only God knows what people should think about it. But If I start to write the music in Bach or Shostakovich manner it also going to be strange.

- Can any musician be the modern composer in front of the society, but at home he is playing something old, bard or Beatles alike with the guitar in his hands?

- More over, he must do this! It is stupid thing to close yourself from the wealthy creative world because of any scant conviction. All new events that we have now - are our modernity.

There is huge genre variety in the modern music art. We should remember that in any branch there are geniuses, who show the world impressive samples of their art. My aural experience is wide enough; I just can't deny myself in listening to the talented things. The most important that they are all different and have different esthetic basis. And for me, as for the musician, it is important to have knowledge at any musical directions, to use the whole body of music, to explore music as a phenomenon, but not to declaim that all other musical directions are trash. Happily, the modern musical art presents us the wide range for choosing, we just have to choose between bad and good. It is important to understand what is bad and what is good, nevertheless we don't have to limit ourselves only by good.

- I agree that everything is changing. But what about the old saying that everything is flowing, everything is changing but only the human soul stays unchangeable? I mean that the soul is always trying to reach something good, beautiful and harmonious...

- I absolutely agree! The soul always reaches the highest beauty of the world! We have told about the regular transformation of all aspects of human lives, about the regular rethinking of all around us, but the aspects mean first of all the soul. Thus, every new era renovate the meaning of the beauty. By the way this meaning is individual for everyone: one can name something ugly, but the same to other

can be beautiful...

- Now I absolutely disagree with you, because beauty is irrational concept, unexplainable, illogical. But any person, either creator or not, either educated or not, when seeing something can immediately say beautiful it or not.

- I think that the true existing beauty is always hidden from the cursory glance, it is not connected to the outer shell and the understanding of it comes through the primary rejection and effort. And the things that feel like beauty without any obstructions - are the templates, starting point, just the basic kernel that has to be supplemented with internal elements by the Creator to fill it with the individual features. I think that the true beauty of the world is all the things that we can't feel from the first sight, and it is not connected with the outer shell.

- So why the modern music and melodiousness are disjointed?

- Melodiousness if you are insisting on this term exists but it has changed with the times. It has got the new qualities. Long ago the coach was replaced by the car and then by the plane. The similar is in the art. If we compare we will see that the modern music as for me is on the similar level to the car, Russian production car. We have an ability to change it on the foreign car and we have to. Highly popular today electronic music responds to the spirit of the time. Maybe in future it will replace the acoustic instruments.

- Lets talk about routine questions. What kind of impression has our city given to you?

- We went from the Izhevsk and when we were passing the dam we looked to the left, at the same time all people in the bus felt silent. Everyone literally opened their mouths because we've seen an amazing view. Dispensary where do we live is located in fairy place. When we are seating in the dining room and looking on the water we all have only one thought in our heads: "Oh, my God! I want these live wallpapers to my place..." It is the best view I've ever seen in my life.

Your nature is spectacular, it is like a magic. I've never seen anything similar in any city. It is so beautiful, polyphonic and musically coloristic, that our musicians goes almost every evening to the quay and are dreaming to rent a house somewhere there. Almost everything here motivates to create; we hear the voice of nature, and every corner here as a living score. And the air is very fresh and dizzying – no comprising with Moscow air. Only here I've understood that!

The city is calm, silent and serene – you can't find a better place for the creation. We have not expected to see such a beauty here, because we have come to the small country town, even it has a name of the Great Russian composer. Also the organization by Academy was without exaggeration on the European level. Now we are sadly count the days before the departure.

- How did you started your way on musical path that eventually has leaded you to our place?

- I am studying at Moscow conservatory at composer department. Previously I've studied in Mogilev Music College and there was not such department there, so I've chosen the musicology as the most creative and embracing from the list. The musicologist has to have the good understanding in any music, its details and construction, to hear and to understand it from the inside, to feel the peculiarities of the influence of sound wave on the subconscious and the human essence, because the music is some type of the psychological weapon of mass destruction. But at the beginning was the musical school where I've learned playing piano. Also I have loved to sing and I did it during my whole conscious and unconscious life. A lot of lessons were started with my signing to the class. I've always known that music is my passion.

So when I went to the second course in college, I've faced with the new feelings. I've heard the music inside of me since I was a child, but I didn't want to talk about it, afraid to be weird in front of others. But on the second course we've started to learn the program of 20 century, and I've found out about "new Viennese classics" in the person of Schonberg, Berg and Webern. The music of 20 century was the same to the music inside of me. Turned round that such music exists and it is normal to talk about such weird things as the music inside of you. Since then I've started to get deeper into the modern art and I've understood that the composers not only the legendary people from the past, but also the people that is living nowadays.

On the third course I've started to visit the rehearsals of Symphonic Orchestra of our college, I've fell in love with this power, I wanted to give to it the breathe of the new age. Gradually I've understood that the music creation is mine mission. I think that you have to be born as a composer and then the circumstances should appear to show you the starting point.

In any type of art, either as painting, sculpture, poetry, I know, that the creation of something new is my destination. But the main interest of me is the music.

- What can you tell about the Academy in general? How much is it interesting and helpful?

- Nowadays the Academy is one of the brightest projects realized in Russia.

Academy is the amazing place where we can closely communicate with the composers from different countries. We are offered the lessons with the famous foreign professors, the interaction with the strongest musicians of the Moscow Contemporary Music Ensemble. Here we can make an acquaintance with the different composing estheticians, to discuss the important questions and to get a lot of different answers, to feel the modern composer-fellow who lives in the other corner of the world. The Academy is the window to the variety of other worlds, it is highly interesting, helpful and it helps in the creation. We have felt that this two weeks going to leave the track in our souls from the

first days, and now our goal is to save these feelings and to propose them to our routine lives.

- Tatiana, how do you think, when the modern music will be accepted and understood by the society?

- Now there are some people that understand this music, these people exist in professional as well as in common environment. But the adoption can take 100 years or more, it is very gradual process. Everything is going to change. Heaven knows how people will change to that moment, maybe we will transform to cyborgs.

- I offer you to meet in one hundred years and to decide who was right.

- I don't mind!

**People can agree or disagree with Tatiana, but she is sincere and firm in her vision of music as well as in the relation to our city. She has told about it only with the admiration. But we unfortunately couldn't hear the play, written to the academy: the creation was very hard to prepare it within three rehearsals. Nevertheless we wish a good luck and success for her!
Interviewed by Nikolay Galanov.**