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## **THE PHENOMENON OF IVAN SLYOTA'S MUSICAL HERITAGE**

Ivan Slyota – a prominent Ukrainian composer, conductor, teacher, and People's Artist of Ukraine. His creative work has become an inseparable part of the country's musical culture, with his songs combining folk traditions with the composer's personal interpretation. This article discusses the features of Ivan Slyota's musical heritage, its influence on contemporary musical art, and its significance for national identity.

Ivan Slyota was born in 1937 in the village of Yasnoziryia in the Cherkasy region. Music was always present in his family and became an important part of his life and daily routine. From a young age, he played folk instruments and was also passionate about singing. The support of his family, especially his mother, who sang beautiful Ukrainian folk songs, greatly contributed to the development of his creative abilities.

Slyota received his musical education at the Odessa State Conservatory named after A. Nezhdanova, where he studied composition and conducting. It was during these years that he began to develop his own musical views, which were based on the traditions of Ukrainian folk art. A significant influence on his creativity came from his acquaintance with the folk songs of Western Ukraine, which later became the foundation for many of his works.

After graduating from the conservatory, the young composer and conductor moved to Zhytomyr, where he was tasked with restoring the folk choir "Lyonok," created by prominent figures of Ukrainian culture Boris Ten and Anatoly Avdiyevsky. In a short time, Ivan Mikhaylovich essentially formed a new creative team – the Polissya Song and Dance Ensemble "Lyonok."

Ivan Slyota composed numerous songs that quickly gained popularity due to their melodiousness, depth of meaning, and folk expressiveness. His compositions are characterized by lyricism and a harmonious combination of words and music. They often draw on Ukrainian folklore, particularly from the Polissya region. The use of tonal foundations, lyrics containing clear and understandable images, traditional rhythms, and expressive harmonies creates a sense of folk music, making these works accessible and relatable to a wide audience.

The themes of Ivan Slyota's songs include love for the native land, the beauty of nature, patriotism, and human emotions. His works reflect the spirit of the Ukrainian people, issues of human life, and are perceived as vivid musical-poetic reflections and depictions of everyday life. All of Ukraine sang and still sings his songs, such as "Kupavushka," "Ne Zhoraye Zorya," "Ty Meni Zamyany," "Tam, De My Khodyly," "Stezhku Do Voryt," "Hospodynnya Harna," "Batkivsku Khaty," "Oy Khotila Meni Maty," "Chaiku Stepopu," "Vyshyva Ya Synu Sorochku," "Bdzholy," "Mariyechko," "Zamelo, Zaviayalo," and "Hovoryly-Balakaly."

His most famous song, "A Lyon Tsvite," became a symbol of Ukrainian lyrical song and was even performed in New York at the United Nations headquarters. Today, this popular composition by composer Ivan Slyota and poet Vasyl Yukhymovych is widely regarded as a folk song, and its melody is played daily on the clock of the Zhytomyr City Council.

Slyota was exceptionally attentive to every detail in his songs: he was able to convey the atmosphere of Ukrainian villages, the beauty of nature, and the life struggles and joys of his fellow countrymen. An equally significant theme in his work is the focus on the heroism of the Ukrainian people, their struggle for independence, and the dignity and courage of its citizens. These themes have become an integral part of Ukraine's musical heritage.

It is worth noting that Ivan Slyota also composed works that became popular on the stages of Ukrainian theatrical ensembles. His songs have been included in the repertoires of children's choral ensembles as well as academic and folk choirs. He collaborated actively with many famous choral groups, which allowed his music to find its place not only in folk music but also in the higher echelons of musical art.

Ivan Slyota's creative style is characterized by an organic combination of deep folk melodies with elements of classical music tradition. He had the ability to create memorable motifs that evoke an emotional response from listeners while maintaining the depth and expressiveness of his music.

The influence of Ivan Slyota's creativity on the Ukrainian song tradition and contemporary musical art is hard to overestimate: his songs are performed on large concert stages, on radio and television, and are frequently performed during national holidays and ceremonial events. They also form part of the repertoires of educational institutions at various levels. Ivan Slyota's works have already become symbols of the revival of national identity, especially during the establishment of an independent Ukraine, and are not only part of the people's musical heritage but also a significant element of national self-consciousness.

Today, Ivan Slyota's songs are an inseparable part of Ukrainian musical culture. His creativity continues to inspire new generations of composers and performers who draw inspiration from his works for their own compositions. Slyota's legacy lives on not only in his songs but also in numerous performances, recordings, and interpretations that are preserved for future generations.

Thus, the phenomenon of Ivan Slyota's musical heritage lies in the unique combination of folk foundations, deep lyricism, and national distinctiveness. His creativity contributes to the preservation and popularization of Ukrainian culture and the formation of patriotic consciousness in the current generation. Ivan Slyota has left a significant mark on Ukraine's musical art, and his songs continue to live in the hearts of our people.

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