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USING MYKOLA LYSENKO'S WORKS IN MUSIC LESSONS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mykola Lysenko (1842–1912) is considered the founder of Ukrainian classical music and a significant figure in music education. His contributions extended beyond composition to include pedagogy, research in ethnomusicology, and efforts in preserving Ukrainian musical heritage. His works, deeply rooted in Ukrainian folklore, remain highly valuable for integrating into primary school music lessons. Using Lysenko's compositions in music classes not only fosters musical literacy but also strengthens students' appreciation of national culture and traditions. His approach to music education emphasized the importance of children's engagement with folk melodies, rhythmic diversity, and expressive choral singing. Modern pedagogical research supports the idea that early exposure to culturally significant music strengthens students' sense of identity and enhances their emotional connection to music learning.

This article explores how Lysenko's musical works can be effectively used in teaching primary school students, with a focus on practical approaches and methodological recommendations for educators. The study also highlights how the adaptation of his compositions into the primary school curriculum can improve students' musical skills and cultural awareness.

Lysenko's works play a crucial role in the musical development of primary school students. His compositions are particularly effective in the early stages of music education due to their clarity in melody, structure, and folk-based elements. They serve multiple functions in primary school music education, including: Lysenko's piano pieces and folk song arrangements help children recognize musical notation, rhythm, and harmony. His works incorporate simple yet expressive melodic lines, making them suitable for young learners. By engaging with Lysenko's compositions, students develop an understanding of intervals, phrasing, articulation, and dynamics, which are essential elements of musical literacy.

Lysenko's compositions are deeply intertwined with Ukrainian folk traditions, making them powerful tools for teaching musical and cultural heritage. His arrangements of folk songs, such as those found in "Молодощі" (Molodoschi), provide students with exposure to authentic Ukrainian melodic and rhythmic structures. Studies show that children who engage with traditional music from an early age develop a stronger appreciation for their national identity and cultural diversity [1 : 111].

Lysenko's choral works, such as "Веснянка" (Vesnianka) and "Вечір" (Vechir), are ideal for developing young voices. His compositions introduce children to the fundamentals of choral harmony, articulation, diction, and breath control. Singing these

pieces allows students to explore expressiveness and phrasing, as well as improve their confidence in vocal performance.

Research suggests that early exposure to national music enhances students' motivation and engagement in music lessons, providing a foundation for lifelong musical appreciation. The structure of Lysenko's compositions, particularly his folk song arrangements, makes them ideal for introducing children to polyphony, rhythm variations, and dynamic changes.

To effectively integrate Lysenko's works into primary school music education, teachers can apply several methodological approaches. These approaches aim to develop students' listening, performance, and creative skills while fostering an appreciation for Ukrainian musical heritage.

One of the first steps in incorporating Lysenko's works is active listening and discussion. Students should be introduced to Lysenko's folk song arrangements and piano miniatures, such as "Козачок" (Kozachok) [2 : 18].

Teachers can guide students in identifying melodic patterns, rhythmic structures, and expressive qualities within Lysenko's music by encouraging them to actively listen and analyze the compositions. Rather than passively hearing a piece, students should be prompted to explore how the melody reflects the characteristics of Ukrainian folk traditions, considering the distinctive contours, ornamentation, and modal features that set this music apart. Attention should also be given to the emotions conveyed through changes in tempo, dynamics, and phrasing, allowing students to recognize how composers use musical elements to express different moods. Furthermore, rhythmic structures play a fundamental role in shaping the energy of Lysenko's compositions. By focusing on the pulse, accentuation, and recurring rhythmic motifs, students can gain a deeper understanding of how rhythm contributes to the overall character of a piece. Engaging in discussions about these aspects not only enhances students' ability to analyze music but also strengthens their emotional connection to the compositions, fostering a more immersive learning experience.

Performing Lysenko's choral works is equally essential for developing vocal skills, ensemble awareness, and musical expression. Through guided singing exercises, students can familiarize themselves with his melodies and harmonies, gradually building confidence in their vocal abilities. Simple choral pieces, such as *Веснянка*, provide an excellent introduction to traditional Ukrainian choral music, allowing students to explore intonation, phrasing, and articulation in an accessible way. To reinforce rhythmic accuracy, teachers can incorporate movement-based activities, such as body percussion and clapping exercises, which help students internalize rhythmic patterns in a natural and engaging manner. Additionally, using call-and-response techniques encourages active participation, as students learn to replicate melodic phrases and rhythmic motifs by ear, strengthening their aural skills and musical memory. Research indicates that children who actively perform traditional music develop stronger musical retention, heightened sensitivity to expressive nuances, and a deeper appreciation for cultural heritage [3, p. 42]. By integrating these performance-based approaches, educators create an interactive learning environment that enhances both technical musical abilities and artistic interpretation, making Lysenko's works a meaningful and enjoyable part of the curriculum [3 : 42].

Encouraging improvisation and creative expression is another effective way to integrate Lysenko's music into the learning process. Creative activities allow students to engage with music in a personal and imaginative way, fostering both technical skills and artistic sensitivity. One of the most effective methods for developing musical creativity is melodic improvisation, where students experiment with creating their own melodies based on Lysenko's harmonic patterns. By exploring different note sequences, rhythm variations, and phrasing techniques, children develop a deeper understanding of musical structure while enhancing their ability to express emotions through sound. This process not only strengthens their aural skills but also boosts their confidence in performing music.

Another powerful approach involves storytelling through music. Lysenko's compositions often evoke vivid emotions and imagery, making them an ideal foundation for creative narration. While listening to a selected piece, students can imagine a scene, a character, or an event that aligns with the mood of the music. They can then articulate their interpretation through spoken or written storytelling, describing how the melody, harmony, and dynamics reflect particular emotions or moments. This activity fosters both linguistic and musical expression, allowing children to form deeper emotional connections with the compositions.

Additionally, visual representation provides students with an opportunity to express their interpretation of music through art. While listening to Lysenko's works, children can translate their emotions and impressions into drawings or paintings, using color, shapes, and patterns to represent different aspects of the music. This approach enhances their ability to perceive and analyze musical elements beyond sound, promoting a multisensory understanding of artistic expression. The combination of auditory and visual creativity encourages a more profound engagement with music, reinforcing both analytical and emotional connections to Lysenko's compositions.

Through these creative activities, students not only develop their musical abilities but also cultivate imagination, emotional intelligence, and a deeper appreciation for Ukrainian musical heritage. By incorporating improvisation, storytelling, and visual expression into lessons, teachers can make Lysenko's works more accessible and inspiring, ensuring that children connect with the music on a personal level while reinforcing their understanding of musical structure and expression.

Incorporating Mykola Lysenko's works into primary school music education significantly enriches the learning experience. His compositions serve as powerful tools for developing musical literacy, fostering cultural awareness, and enhancing students' vocal and instrumental skills. By using structured methodologies, teachers can effectively integrate Lysenko's music into lessons, ensuring that children gain both technical and artistic knowledge.

Moreover, the integration of national music in primary school curricula plays a crucial role in shaping both the emotional and cognitive development of young learners. When children are exposed to music that reflects their cultural heritage, they develop a stronger sense of identity and belonging, which contributes to emotional stability and self-awareness. By engaging with traditional melodies, folk harmonies, and culturally significant rhythms, students form a deeper emotional connection to the music they perform and study. This connection not only fosters a sense of pride in their

national identity but also strengthens their ability to express emotions through music, enhancing their overall artistic and social development.

From a cognitive perspective, learning music rooted in national traditions helps students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as they analyze melodic structures, rhythmic patterns, and harmonic progressions that are unique to their cultural context. Studies in music pedagogy suggest that exposure to folk and classical music from an early age enhances auditory processing, improves memory retention, and strengthens pattern recognition skills, all of which are essential for broader cognitive development. Moreover, students who engage with national music demonstrate higher levels of motivation and engagement in music lessons, as the repertoire feels more familiar and personally meaningful to them.

As educational research continues to explore innovative approaches to music pedagogy, further studies should analyze the impact of Lysenko's pedagogical principles on contemporary music education. His emphasis on integrating folk traditions with formal music training, encouraging expressive performance, and fostering creativity through improvisation and storytelling remains highly relevant in modern teaching methodologies. Investigating how his principles can be adapted to digital learning environments, interactive music education platforms, and interdisciplinary arts programs would provide valuable insights into the evolving role of traditional music in 21st-century classrooms.

By maintaining and promoting the rich musical heritage of Mykola Lysenko, educators not only preserve a significant cultural legacy but also cultivate a deeper appreciation for national and classical music traditions among students. This process is essential for ensuring that Ukrainian musical heritage remains a living and evolving art form, passed down to future generations. Additionally, integrating Lysenko's works into contemporary music education does more than preserve history—it inspires creativity, nurtures a love for music, and equips young learners with the skills necessary to engage with both traditional and modern musical landscapes. By fostering a holistic approach to music education that values both historical significance and artistic innovation, educators help shape a new generation of musicians, composers, and culturally aware individuals who will continue to enrich and expand the musical traditions of Ukraine and beyond.

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