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GENRE AND STYLE EVOLUTION OF UKRAINIAN FOLK SONGS

The Ukrainian song culture is one of the most valuable spiritual heritages of the people throughout its long history, which dates back to antiquity. Folk songs reflect the most diverse aspects of the life of the working people: their difficult but heroic history, their long and fierce struggle against foreign enslavers and landlords, their struggle for their rights, as well as the everyday life and preferences of ordinary people. The song accompanied various types of labour being an important companion at every stage of the work process, from harvesting to spinning. It also played a significant role in folk rituals including various calendar and ceremonial songs, carols, shchedrivkas, spring songs, as well as wedding and funeral ritual songs.

In Ukraine in the nineteenth century ancient folk songs were sometimes called staryny. Contemporary Ukrainian folklore has over a hundred terms for folk songs. Songs are classified:

- by genre (epic songs, lyrical songs, lyric-epic songs, lyric-dramatic songs, ballads, ritual songs, nonritual songs);
- by content (historical songs, heroic songs, social songs, historical and everyday songs, family songs, religious songs, children's songs, majestic songs, humorous songs);
- by chronological and thematic (or historical and thematic) principle (songs about the struggle against Turkish-Tatar invaders, songs about the struggle against Polish-gentry invaders, songs about spontaneous peasant uprisings and their heroes, Cossack songs, Haidamak songs, recruitment songs, songs about emigration, songs about women's fate, love songs, lullabies, etc.) [2].

In the initial period Ukrainian folk songs were passed down orally from generation to generation. They were performed by the people themselves during various rites, celebrations and events. Traditional performances were distinguished by their authenticity and naturalness marked by different styles and techniques, melodic singing, choral or solo performance, and often accompanied by various musical instruments, such as bandura, lyre, gusli, etc. [1].

Songs had a significant socio-cultural and psychological impact on the Ukrainian people. They united the community during various events, served as a means of transmitting cultural values and history, expressed emotions and feelings, contributed to the preservation of traditions and the formation of national identity.

Ukrainian folk songs, like many other aspects of culture, are influenced by changes in society, technology and cultural trends but they remain alive, relevant and open to creative interpretations and innovations. Many Ukrainian folk songs have roots in pre-Christian rituals and beliefs with themes related to nature worship, fertility rites and ancestral spirits. The introduction of Christianity to Ukraine in the 10th century brought

new religious themes and motifs to folk music including hymns, prayers, and devotional songs. Major historical events such as wars, revolutions and social upheavals, have also influenced the themes and content of Ukrainian folk songs reflecting the experience and emotions of the Ukrainian people [3].

The development of music recording technologies allows performers to create new versions and arrangements of Ukrainian folk songs. It includes electronic sampling, computer processing and modern sound effects. Thanks to the Internet and social media Ukrainian folk songs are becoming more accessible to a global audience. It popularizes Ukrainian music outside the country.

In the modern world Ukrainian folk songs continue to play an important role but in new contexts. They are used as a means of cultural expression, correlate with modern musical trends and act as a symbol of national pride and unity. Ukrainian folk songs are often used in modern arrangements, cover songs and performances, and are also actively used in media, educational and cultural events. Thus, Ukrainian folk songs remain an important part of Ukraine's cultural and musical heritage and actively interact with contemporary reality.

In our time, where cultural globalization affects every aspect of life, preserving and developing cultural heritage is an important task for every nation. Understanding how the genres and styles of Ukrainian folk song have changed over time helps us to analyze the history, culture and spirit of the Ukrainian people.

Unfortunately, Ukraine is currently in difficult geopolitical conditions facing aggression and territorial threats. However, even in these difficult times, music continues to play its role in shaping society, expressing emotions and reflecting national identity.

First of all, it is worth noting that contemporary Ukrainian music has become an important symbol of the struggle for independence and freedom. It plays a key role in maintaining the morale and motivation of the Ukrainian people. In today's Ukraine, where tanks roar and explosions are heard, the song of anxiety plays a crucial role. Even in the midst of fire and chaos it finds its way into the hearts of people giving them strength and hope. A Ukrainian folk song is the voice of the nation that does not fade away. It is a symbol of strength, solidarity and indestructibility.

Creativity can be considered as one of the means of spiritual weaponry and resistance, a tool for psychological protection. Through creativity we draw attention to ourselves and our country. Art helps to maintain international interest in Ukraine, not to forget about military events and to raise funds to support the army, thus bringing our victory closer. In the heart of Ukraine, where every chord is filled with emotion, the great melody of contemporary music sounds in times of war. To the sounds of harmony and rhythms that carry devotion and strength, the people feel a fervent outlook on the world and a soul full of hope.

Contemporary Ukrainian artists demonstrate diversity and creativity in their performances of Ukrainian folk songs making arrangements, creating new and exciting versions of traditional songs using modern rock sounds and energetic rhythms (e.g. Okean Elzy's song "Let Go", which arrangement is based on the folk song "Hey, the Girls Were Going), traditional instruments and melodies combined with modern musical techniques (e.g. DakhaBrakha's song "Flying", which is based on the folk song

“To the Forest Near the River”), traditional Ukrainian motifs with electronic sound (e.g. The Hardkiss’s song “Kupala”, which is based on the folk song “Kupala, Kupala”). Ukrainian artists are actively interacting with musicians and cultures from other countries exchanging ideas, styles and traditions, as well as creating joint projects. This is also changing the way Ukrainian folk songs are performed and interpreted.

Conclusions. The genre and style evolution of Ukrainian folk song is a complex and fascinating process that reflects the diversity of the cultural experience of the Ukrainian people over the centuries. From the original pre-marital ritual songs and epic ballads to contemporary arrangements and interpretations, Ukrainian folk song has travelled a path where tradition has intertwined with innovation and authenticity with influences from outside cultures.

This process of evolution testifies to the resilience and adaptability of Ukrainian culture, as well as its ability to reflect changes in society, history and the identity of the people. A folk song not only reflects history and cultural values but also transforms with time retaining its relevance and significance for the modern generation.

The Ukrainian folk song continues to arouse interest both among its own people and a global audience testifying to its outstanding artistic and cultural significance. The genre and style evolution of Ukrainian folk songs remains an object of research and a source of inspiration for musicians and cultural scholars helping to enrich the national musical heritage and preserve its uniqueness for future generations.

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