Music Education in Krasnoyarsk as a Resource Factor for Building the Civic Solidarity: The Situation by the Outbreak of the War

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Abstract: The purpose of the study is a comprehensive analytical review of various sources that reveal the role of music in Krasnoyarsk by the outbreak of the war.

A hypothesis: interdependence of cultural and social events and their mutual influence during a period of increased social tension could be observed.

Methods: During the study the following research methods were applied: cultural-historical, axiological, continuous sampling, descriptive methods and elements of statistical research. Materials published on the pages of the Krasnoyarsk periodicals for 1937–1941, as well as scientific works about music education and music culture by various outstanding scientists were used.

Results: It was proved that music education by the outbreak of the war is considered a foundation for the realization of ideological and educational purposes. And it is also outlined that The Great Patriotic War set new challenges in the cultural life of the Krasnoyarsk Territory in general and Krasnoyarsk in particular.

It is concluded that music education is considered a resource for the national solidarity building. Due to such a strong foundation, music education at the beginning of the war was able to fulfill an ideological function while concert musical activities were used as a tool for creating of civic identity.

Keywords: civic identity, cultural life in Krasnoyarsk at the beginning of the war, music education in Krasnoyarsk.

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Красноярскра никёсёнен музыка вёреневё – гражданлăх пёрлехне тума хăвăт паракан витемлĕ вай: вăрсă умёнхи лару-тару

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Аннотаци: Тĕгчев тĕпнелехе вăрсă пусламамашёнчĕнче Красноярскра музыка пëlтĕршĕ мёнле пулнине капласа паракан расна çал куца нумай енлĕ тишкер tỷ тăвасси.

Гипотеза: курăнмалла. Музыка вёреневĕ пулăмсем пёр-пёринпе тачă çыхăнни тата пёр-пёрне витем кунн урăнмалла.

Гипотеза вăрсă пулнине кăтартнă. Çак хăватлă никĕс пуррине кура музыка вĕренĕвĕпе музыка курăнмалла.

Тĕпчеве ăслăлăх хунтă памалли фон Красноярскра никĕсленĕ музыка вĕренĕвĕ – гражданлăх пёрлехне тума хăват паракан витĕмлĕ вай: вăрсă умёнхи лару-тару / Ю.А. Кколпакова, Н.П. Шютова // Вĕренӳ аталанăвĕ. – 2020. – № 3 (9). – С. 49-53. DOI:10.31483/r-86221.

I. Introduction

The study was carried out to understand the role of art in the regions during the war, in particular in the Krasnoyarsk Territory. This article is devoted to Krasnoyarsk. Previously, the art of the Krasnoyarsk Territory was studied within the framework of art history, through the cataloging of material, analysis of artworks whereas this study starts a series of articles devoted to the problems of the civic identity building in the Krasnoyarsk Territory in 1930–1945 through musical and concert activities. It gives characteristics to the situation with music education as a tool for creating a national community. The purpose of this study is a comprehensive analytical review of various sources that reveal the role of music in the Krasnoyarsk Territory during the war. A hypothesis is put forward about the interdependence of cultural and social events and their mutual influence during a period of increased social tension.

II. Research Methods

The article is based on materials published on the pages of the Krasnoyarsk periodicals for 1937–1941, as well as scientific works about music education and music culture by L.V. GavriloVA, M.M. Chikhacheva, I.V. Belonosova, E.V. Prygun, E.S. Tsareva, E.A. Vanyukova and L.G. Lavrusesha. The research uses the following methods: cultural-historical method, axiological method, continuous sampling method, elements of the descriptive method and the method of statistical research.

III. Results

It should be noted that the subject of music education in Krasnoyarsk has been deeply studied by several scientists. For instance, the monograph “To Teach Creativity! Concerning the history of professional education in the field of art in Krasnoyarsk” is worth mentioning [6]. According to this work, before the outbreak of the Great Patriotic War, the musical cultural life in Krasnoyarsk was quite active. E.V. Prygun gives an overall picture of the cultural musical life development of the city and distinguishes four periods of its formation [5]. By 1941, the National Conservatoire had been functioning for about 20 years. Pianists, singers, string and brass players and future voice teachers graduated from the first professional music institution on a regular basis. Before the conservatoire was established, pupils at Krasnoyarsk primary and secondary educational institutions had had the opportunity to study music at singing and music classes. They learned to play musical instruments, sang in the choir, and played in the orchestra. The students also took part in concerts. Fortunately, in Krasnoyarsk by that time there were venues necessary for the functioning of creative teams. It was this fact that largely determined the further development of cultural events in Krasnoyarsk, and the city turned into a Siberian musical centre. The purpose of the conservatoire was to teach all those wishing the basics of general music education for three age categories. A couple of years later, the conservatoire was renamed into a music technical school, and in 1936 into a music college. The first separate music school was opened in Krasnoyarsk in 1930. Before 1930, the primary and the secondary levels of professional music education were united at the conservatoire.
Besides the National Conservatoire, by the outbreak of the war there were the Philharmonic Society (whose slogan on the posters was “Music to the masses”), the Regional Concert and Variety Bureau, the Pushkin Theatre with drama, opera, and operetta companies, orchestras (symphonic, Great Russian and mandolin-symphonic orchestras), the County Exemplary Choir headed by S.F. Abayantsev. Due to the Sлютовсов, an opera group was created, and opera performances were a great success with the public. Lack of funding at the National Conservatoire led to teachers’ various part-time jobs in different musical groups and orchestras. Also, teachers had to give private lessons. Apart from professional activities, there were hobby clubs for choir and musical instrument practice. The situation of that time is described in detail in the second volume of “Musical culture of Krasnoyarsk” [4].

Refugees, prisoners of the First World War (some of them had academic music education) as well as White Guards contributed to Krasnoyarsk music culture too. For instance, local authorities organized a three-month training course for music specialists to transfer knowledge from Europeans to Siberians. E.S. Tsareva gives much interesting information on the prisoners-of-war symphony orchestra that entertained Krasnoyarsk citizens with both classical masterpieces and popular dance and folk music [6].

The composer, teacher, founder of Krasnoyarsk professional music education P.I. Ivanov-Radkevitch created the first mixed choir consisting of Krasnoyarsk students and organized a symphony orchestra of city music lovers and students. He also staged opera scenes and a children’s opera with the participation of the pupils.

There was also some theoretical background. For example, K.N. Sementovsky lectured in musical arts at the University of Culture for the Krasnoyarsk party, Komsomol and Union Activists. He also made opening remarks before concerts and performances, wrote reviews and articles for the periodical “Krasnoyarsky Rabochy”, broadcast on the radio, combining these activities with pedagogic work at schools and colleges. Moreover, a musical lecture institution for senior pupils and students was created. In the Regional House of Folk Art, refresher training for leaders of amateur art hobby clubs took place. As for non-professional activities, plant employees lived an amateur musical life. There was also a choir and a brass band at the pedagogical university.

Despite the fact that the Great Russian Orchestra at the Red October club, the best Krasnoyarsk amateur group in 1925 (piccolo, domra prima I, domra prima II, domra alto I, domra alto II, domra bass I, domra bass II, balalaika prima, balalaika second, balalaika alto, balalaika bass), ceased to exist four years before the outbreak of the war, musicians playing the folk instruments continued to participate in Krasnoyarsk musical life. Before the disbandment, the repertoire of the orchestra included transcriptions of works by Russian and foreign classics (Georges Bizet, Camille Saint-Saëns, Vittorio Monti, Frédéric Chopin, etc.) as well as fantasies based on Russian folk songs (“Barynya /a mistress/”, “Yo piru byla /I was having a feast/”, etc.). In addition to the fact that the head of the orchestra G.I. Troshin conducted and sometimes performed himself, he often carried out the instrumentation of the pieces. The orchestra sometimes played the music written by its conductor too.

In the 1930s, the tour poster was diverse: Leningrad Ballet, Novosibirsk and Irkutsk opera companies, vocal quartets (the Moscow Art Theatre School-Studio Quartet and Lysenko Quartet), the Travelling Opera Ensemble, the Auer Quartet, the Glazunov Quartet, the David Oistrakh and Yuri Belyushkov’s Duet, the Nathan Perelman (piano) μ Hertz Tsonyk’s (cello) Ensemble, soloists Miron Poliakhin (violin), Grigory Ginzburg (piano), Vera Dulova (harp) and many others. In 1940, the citizens has opportunity to attend the performances of the State Song and Dance Ensemble of the North Ossetian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and the Leningrad State Academic Capella under the direction of A.V. Sveshnikov, the jazz orchestra of the composer Dmitry Pokrass (the program included new songs “May Moscow”, “If tomorrow will be war”, “Rifle”, “Farewell Komsomol Song”, etc.).

Thus, on the eve of the war, both art education and amateur performing were largely developing. Also cultural life was very active: musicians were working, educational institutions were teaching students and organizing concerts and musical and literary evenings as well. Even on the last pre-war day of preparing the layout, the newspaper “Krasnoyarsky Rabochy” reported about the concert of the Lviv State Theatrical Jazz under the direction of I. Gert and about One Farewell Tour of the A.M. Gorky Central Park of Culture and Leisure (Green Theatre) [1, p. 4].

At the beginning of the war, Krasnoyarsk turned into one of the defense centres with factories operating at that time to help the front. Both the preparation of reserves for the front and the formation of military units took place. Nevertheless, musical life in the city continued to intensify: in addition to concerts given by the symphony orchestra, opera theatre, chamber music soloists and groups, there were also performances in hospitals, military units, industrial enterprises and collective farms. Many musicians and professors from the state universities as well as Dnepropetrovsk and Odessa opera and ballet theatre artists were evacuated to Krasnoyarsk. This fact also played a great role. Evidently, there was not only patriotic theme, anthems and military songs. On the one hand, people were preparing to defend the country; on the other hand, people were trying to create an illusion of peace and to believe that life went on. Musical comedies staged at the Pushkin Theatre prove it. It is not surprising, as they are laughter, light music, an interesting plot, the illusion that everything is fine, that life goes on as usual. This is an opportunity to go to the theatre, to get away, to smile, to listen to well-known motives familiar to people even before the war. As for the folk songs performed at the concerts, they are also people’s culture, because everyone can sing along to them. It is also a kind of identity, civic solidarity consciousness and national folklore awareness. Folklore can represent slow long melodies, love and dance songs. This is a part of the culture; it also forms the patriotic spirit. Therefore, victorious patriotic creativity arose precisely at the moment. At the same time, the war did not cancel the achievements of previous years, but brought something new to the concert activity.
Undoubtedly, events taking place on the international political scene and news from the front presented by the media influenced the cultural development of the city and mobilized all the forces. Not only scientists, engineers, technicians, but also writers, poets and artists were inspired to hard work and dedication. The newspaper “Krasnoyarsk Rabotchii” also encouraged people to this: « Может ли быть что-либо выше, жизненнее, священнее для советского патриота, как отдать все силы на защиту советского отечества, если надо, то и саму жизнь, чтобы он мог сказать вместе с Владимиром Маяковским: “Я с теми, Кто вышел Строить И место в сплошной лихорадке Буден. Отечество Славлю, Которое есть, Но трижды – Которое будет”» [2, p. 2].

Thus, the hypothesis is confirmed. Music education by the outbreak of the war can be considered as a foundation for the realization of ideological and educational purposes. The Great Patriotic War set new challenges in the cultural life of the Krasnoyarsk Territory in general and Krasnoyarsk in particular.

IV. Discussion

The study strengthens the considerable work on music education and musical culture in Krasnoyarsk done by the scientists and deepens it going into the civic identity aspect. Due to such a resource as long-term music education (both in the direct academic sense, and in terms of transferring knowledge from experienced masters to amateur students), musical art was able to fulfil an ideological function for the formation of the civic solidarity among the population. They managed to create a fairly dense cultural environment where there were plenty of opportunities to use musical activities as a tool for bringing people together. The way of using these opportunities will be described in the following works. The research will be continued within the framework of the war period in the Krasnoyarsk Territory.

Nota bene

1) Hereinafter the translation is made by the authors.

2) Can there be anything higher, more vital, and more sacred for a Soviet patriot, than to devote all the efforts to defend the Soviet homeland, and if necessary, then life itself, so that one could say together with Vladimir Mayakovsky: “I am with those who went out to build and sweep in a continuous fever of the weekdays. I am glorifying the Homeland, which exists, but I am glorifying three times – the Homeland that will be”.

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