Spoken Paper

National musical instruments in contemporary education system of Lithuania: peculiarities, problems and future perspectives

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In 21st century when it is becoming relevant to preserve the identity of our nation under the conditions of globalization, we must look back to the history and cultural heritage of our country, because only this way the nation can remain unique and avoid cultural assimilation. Cultural uniqueness is the distinctive feature of every nation, and folk music as a part of such originality can be a powerful tool in national policy of every country. Because of such reason the national instruments and folk music accompanied a man through difficult historic periods, when he most needed spiritual inspiration and support.

It is natural that through the short history of its development Lithuanian musical instruments and the music played using them have changed, evolved. Thanks to this development Lithuanians today have preserved authentic and developed its national musical instruments, which thanks to the finished and high-quality musical education system, are performed by world-renowned and developed by Lithuania performers.

National musical instruments of Lithuania are used in Lithuanian schools. Children and youth are playing the variations of folklore instruments at general education schools, gymnasiums and non-formal education institutions. Students learn to play with the refined folk musical instruments at music and art schools, conservatories and music academies. One of the factors influencing the pedagogy of folk instruments is the socio-cultural expression of the musician playing the folk instrument.
Today, one of the most important and most necessary measures, effectively ensuring the creative development of performers of folk instruments, dissemination of good experience and the pedagogical development is the international cooperation of pupils, students and their pedagogues. Organizing and participating in international contests can be considered as the significant representation of Lithuanian musical culture in the world, and it is the invaluable experience for the young performer, this is an important step toward recognition.

Intercultural cooperation is an important stimulus for the activity of folk instrument specialists. Such cooperation projects analyze the relevant problems, seek out effective opportunities for the expression of folk instruments in the context of contemporary culture. Various concerts, contests, festivals, seminars, conferences, master classes and other active national and international activity of Lithuanian national instrument specialists show that the perfected folk instruments and their modern expression has achieved extremely high results in the context of both Lithuania and Europe. Organizing and participating in international projects is considered as a significant representation of Lithuanian music culture, pedagogy, science in Europe, representing not only a certain area of art, but also the culture and science image of the country, also ensuring the dissemination of good experience of pedagogues, performers and scientists in Lithuania and abroad.

The report discusses the International contests, festivals, scientific conferences of folk instrument performers and other events, taking place in Lithuania and Europe, analyzes the influence on such events on pedagogics of national instruments.

It is noteworthy that in global, diverse innovation-driven community today is becoming increasingly difficult to foster national instruments. Shine of various information technologies, media and show world often overlooks the being of
the modest national instrument. Pedagogues of folk instruments often encounter in principle the existential questions such as: where is the place of national instrument in contemporary world; how to popularize national instruments today without departing from its origin and without abandoning its uniqueness.