

Old manuscripts - new values: Preservation aspects for revaluation of music manuscripts of Macedonian composers in the Music Collection at the National and University Library in Skopje

Maja Kostadinovska
Conservation and Restoration
Laboratory
National and University Library
“St. Clement of Ohrid”-Skopje,
Republic of Macedonia
maja.kostadinovska@live.com

Eleni Novakovska
Music Collection
National and University Library
“St. Clement of Ohrid”-Skopje,
Republic of Macedonia
muzikalii@nubsk.edu.mk

Zorica Jakovleska-Spirovska
Department of Library funds and
services, protection
National and University Library
“St. Clement of Ohrid”-Skopje,
Republic of Macedonia
zorica@nubsk.edu.mk

Historical valuation/revaluation records kept by the Office for Protection of Cultural Heritage constitute a unique and irreplaceable national resource which needs to be protected and preserved for posterity while being simultaneously accessible to those who need recourse to it.

One legal aspect of the valuation/revaluation records is the current preservation state, i.e. the physical condition and impairment of the asset in general and of the components of the asset. The National and University Library „St. Clement of Ohrid“ in Skopje needs to provide this information digitally and in print form to the Office for Protection of Cultural Heritage within the manuscripts valuation record books. This paper presents the preparation, completion and design of these records for the revaluation of works of art of Macedonian composers and encompasses three valuable collections of the Music Collection owned by the National and University Library in Skopje:

- 1) a collection of 12 original musical manuscripts by renowned Macedonian composers dating from 1945 to 1971;
- 2) a collection of 25 original musical manuscripts, part of the legacy of Gligor P. Smokvarski dating from 1949 to 1962 and
- 3) a collection of 60 original musical manuscripts the legacy of Stefan M. Gajdov dating from 1926 to 1986.

All compositions come from Macedonia. They have been donated either by the composers themselves or by their families to the Music Collection by which their private ownership is being transformed into state property. The last collection does not include the entire number of music manuscripts from the Gajdov legacy, it represents only a small part of the collection because it is about an ongoing project.

The first collection contains rare original musical manuscripts (scores and parts) by renowned Macedonian composers of the first four postwar generations, and several by contemporary Macedonian composers: Tomislav Zografski, Vlastimir Nikolovski, Stojan Stojkov, Jane Kodjabashija, Dimche Nikoleski, Blagoja Ivanovski, Petre Bogdanov - Kochko, Todor Skalovski, Zhivko Firfov, Trajko Prokopiev. Genre diversity is main characteristics of the collection, featuring various music forms such as solo songs, choral compositions, chamber works, vocal-instrumental compositions and Macedonian folk songs.

The legacy of Gligor P. Smokvarski (1914-1974) consists of 48 original music manuscripts (scores, parts, sketches) that reflect his musical expression in the period from 1949 to 1962, primarily inspired by the Macedonian folk music. The legacy counts also 80 pages of fragments, 19 photocopies of scores, 16 pages of photocopies of sketches and motives. Smokvarski is best known as the composer of the first Macedonian national ballet "Macedonian novel". Regarding the manuscripts, 14 of them are complete scores and ethno-musicological transcriptions of the folk songs, while the rest are unfinished compositions or incomplete manuscripts.

The legacy of the Macedonian composer, conductor and pedagogue Stefan M. Gajdov (1905-1992), which number of works in the collection counts around 900 library units, consists of original musical

manuscripts that covers various music genres (choir composition, instrumental works, etc.) composed in the period between 1926 to 1986. Besides the author's compositions, there are also harmonized Macedonian folk songs. The manuscripts of the music textbooks from Gajdov, as well as his personal documentation, concert programs, photographs and sections of periodicals, are also an integral part of the legacy. In addition to the handwritten material, the legacy is made up of printed publications by Stefan Gajdov, as well as his personal library.

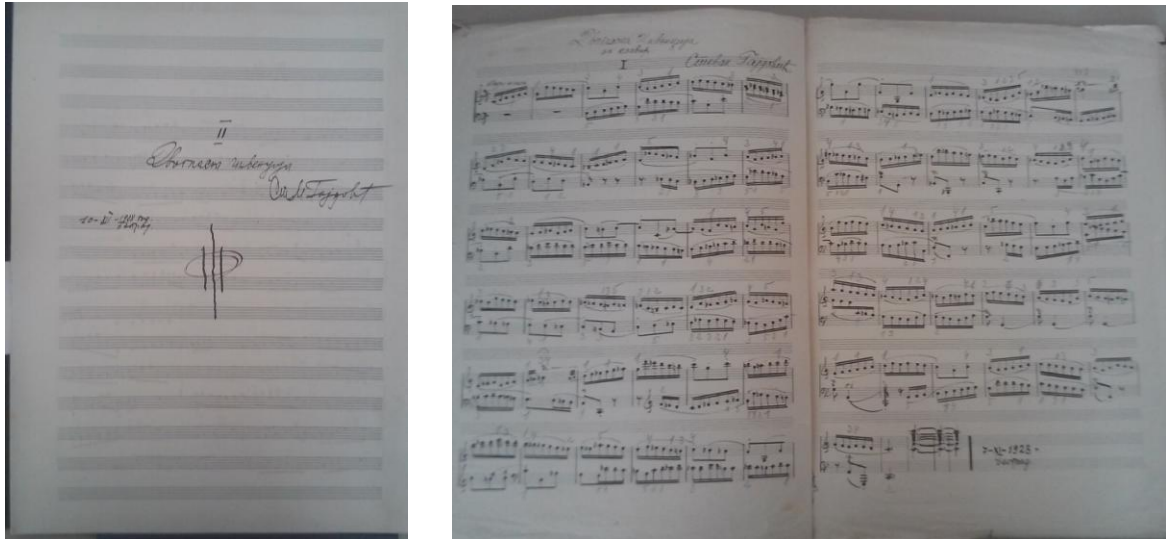


Fig. 1 Front page (left) and music composition (right) - *II Two part Invention* [handwritten score], Stefan M. Gajdov (M StG 11)

During 2016 and the beginning of 2017 the National and University Library continued, on behalf of the Office for Protection of Cultural Heritage, a project of revaluation to acquire a status as cultural heritage and thus to determine a special regime of protection. Here we will focus only to the preservation aspects i.e. the evaluation of the current state which was part of the large valuation record books. The collections were examined on their physical condition and preservation state as well as if any previous interventions have been performed on the assets. The general physical condition of the assets as a whole, as well as the constituent parts, was described in four categories - good, satisfactory, unsatisfactory and bad, whereas the preservation state was evaluated on the type and extent of the authentic preservation of the asset, possible repairs, etc. For all interventions a general assessment (type, scope, responsible entity and time of performance of the protection-conservation interventions and other types of interventions undertaken by the responsible entity, owner, user, etc.) is given whether they are in accordance with the rules / criteria for protection or they influence the degradation of the cultural heritage.

Despite the general research carried out by Macedonian musicologists and composers of the work of certain authors that appear in the collection, some indicated works in the collection are not sufficiently explored. These manuscripts have major potential as a source of information for research in analytical, musicological, cultural and local studies, genealogy, family history, and a wide range of socio-economic studies. The National Library is examining the feasibility of a pilot project which would relate individual manuscripts, listed in the report of the Office, for other activities of preventive and active conservation of the works.

Keywords: project, revaluation, cultural heritage, music manuscript collection, preservation
