THE SPECIFICS OF POP AND JAZZ PERFORMANCE IN SOUL STYLE

Purpose of the study. In a modern pop and jazz performance soul is represented as a mixed style, that was shaped by traditions of African and American folkloric, and later synthesized the genre and stylistic features of jazz with innovative approaches in the field of contemporary popular music. The globalization trends that penetrate into the contemporary artistic space of Ukraine problematize acquisition at the levels of performing practice and scientific research. The present study is aimed at investigating individuation of the various intonational and rhythmic sources, the different signs of conducting work, and ideals of harmony and expression.
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Спецмана стилістичного джазового виконавцтва в стилі солу

Цель работы. В современном эстрадно-джазовом исполнительстве солу представлен как смешанный стиль, который сформировался под влиянием традиций афро-американского фольклора, и позже синтезировал жанрово -стилевые особенности джазового искусства с новаторскими исканиями в области современной популярной музыки. Глобализационные тенденции, которые проявляются на уровнях исполнительской практики и научной рефлексии специфичной и особенностей национального модернизации направленности массовой музыкальной культуры, в частности солу. Дисонанс между интерпретацией проявляет его черт в исполнительской стилетике эстрадно – джазовых певцов и уровнем музыковедческого исследования детерминирует целой статьи – освещение особенностей интерпретации стилистической палитры солу в эстрадно – джазовом исполнительстве. Методология исследования имеет основной принципа компаративизма и музыковедческого анализа. Научная новизна работы обусловлена анализом современной практики эстрадно – джазового исполнительства и формированием представления о путях вхождения стилистики солу в пространство современного вокального искусства. Выведены особенности исполнительства в стиле солу на уровне звукоизвлечения, динамики, артикуляции и драматургии.

Выводы. Синтезировав в себе разнообразные интонационные и ритмические источники, различные знаки культурной памяти солу во множество интерпретаций вошел в культурное пространство, став толчком для формирования различных направленности поп культуры и сохраняя показательные черты на всех уровнях исполнительства как в целостности, так и в частных проявлениях. Освещение специфичных признаков солу в исполнительской практике 2 половине XX ст. – начале XXI ст. и формирование представления об особенностях его онтологии и взаимодействия с другими направлениями современной музыки составляют дальнейшие перспективы исследований.

Ключевые слова: солу, эстрада, джаз, исполнительство.

Articulation of Issue. The issues related to popular music, nowadays are more relevant than ever, because it is difficult to dissociate from a huge and powerful stream of contemporary music, which has captivated the entire our life. Today it is difficult to manage the most powerful stream of song production, which is almost not controlled by anyone or anything, and it is often presented not in the best quality. Hence, a need to study and understand the best examples of jazz and popular music of the late XX – beginning of the XXI century, including such vivid style as soul arises.

An attention to the phenomenon of performance, which in the present reality appears as an unrepeatable display of unique creative world, actualizes the personal origin in the culture context of the early twenty-first century. Reflecting such actualization, the soul at the same time displayed the modern culture trend of mixed unity of the world and national art experience and at the same time different spheres of musical art: African and American folk, blues and jazz, contributing to further formation of many areas of pop music in the 2nd half of XX – beginning of XXI century. The relevance of the research of jazz music specificity is determined by the fact that despite its “style generating” potential towards the modern mass music, spiritual and value proximity to the Ukrainian culture and orientation of Ukrainian pop music to the acquisition of international experience, it hasn’t become a component of the problem field of domestic musicology. Its focus on studying of basics of musical and creative activity, “which is characterized by unity of purposes, content, principles, tools, methods and organizational forms of creative self-actualization and self-expression of musician as the subject of artistic culture and social environment” (Zinska T. V. [2]) makes actual the study of soul music, which is based on a socio-critical worldview position of a performer.

The analysis of the last publications demonstrates the dissonance between the intensity of ”entry” of soul to the palette of expression means of contemporary artists and the level of its musicological coverage, concentrated mainly in vocabulary publications and studies of problems of jazz and popular music in the 2nd part of XX. Recognizing the importance of soul in mass music of the 1960-s, the researchers primarily underline the features of its thematic-imaginative circle, which are caused by the process of the national self-identity of the negro community in USA [3, 196; 4, 28; 6, 63]; the ecstatic, marginal expressiveness of emotional and dynamic palette [3, 194-199] and emphasize the importance of its executive style creating characteristics – the improvisation, using of sob, scansion, falsetto, shouting, melismatics, non-tempered sound extraction, conversational cues and others [1, 540].
However, today the peculiarities of soul in vocal, pedagogical and methodological perspectives are not explored. There are individual explorations of performance practice of Ukrainian soul singers and the specifics of soul features reflection in the context of development of pop music art. Based on the active development of methodical bases of the national school of pop singing and mixing of Ukrainian pop music, this fact actualizes the investigation of specificity of national interpretation of soul music. The analysis of recent researches and publications evidences about the discreteness and intermediate character of coverage of soul phenomenology issues – the features of the voice formation, sound studies, breath, agogics, dynamics, articulation, plastics, communication with the audience and stage image. So, publications dedicated for soul artists, are located mostly in the Internet and give an information of biographical content in a journalistic style; the few studies which underline the specifics of soul, show it in a context of pop music [5], jazz and rock [9]. The formation of professional vocal pop music education and studying of pop vocal by the modern Ukrainian vocal and pedagogical school, in fact, have not changed the research situation related to a soul problematics, because the specifics of soul music is not separated from the general context of pop singing.

The subject of the article is a soul as a mass music phenomenon; the object is a specific of pop and jazz performance in soul style. The article purpose is to identify the features of pop and jazz performance in soul style.

The presentation of basic material.

The soul is “the answer” of art to changes in United States culture in the end of 1950-s – the intensification of a process of national self-identification, the struggle for social rights of the black community and the formation of a new image of its representative who became a heart of artistic reflection, and displayed the searches of valuable guides corresponding to the new ideals of epoch [5, p. 29]. The activity of R. Charles, J. Brown, S. Cook, W. Picket, R. Thomas, O. Redding, and A. Franklin was oriented to their declarative expression. However, the soul, during the years of its formation, having a potentially progressive democratic content, has revealed the ability to content duality and paradoxical reorientation in the art commercialization, brutal performing competition and growing of importance of entertainment function. The spokesman for these trends was the Detroit soul – partly oriented to “white audience”, identified by reduction of the social and protest sentiments, entertainment, semantically and figuratively close to pop culture, that in future was demonstrated in creativity of D. Ross, M. Gay, M. Jackson, S. Wonder, J. Michael, E. Whitehouse, Adele, A. Kiz, and Joe Cocker.

However, on condition of certain content differences and diversity of performing versions soul was a musical ideology, “...a synetic communicative phenomenon, which being strongly influenced by jazz, combined “the pop music” with radical authenticity, ...., an example of revival of the values of African and American democratic improvisational art, which in borders of jazz (in bebop) was inclined to elitism” [5, p. 6-7], which was based on a complex of representative features.

Formed in 1950-s and 1960-s in American popular music culture as an exceptionally peculiar phenomenon at the level of aesthetics and specifics of the musical language, soul has attracted the attention of researchers primarily in aspect of its links with the jazz art. Thus, one of the first researchers of jazz U. Panasie underlines in creativity of the soul founder Charles R. the support on a blues music, “...which has preserved the "traces" of jazz” [6,p. 119], rhythm and blues, which was characterized by directness, simplicity, a clear rhythm and “...too much underlined and too noisy rhythm of accompaniment” [ibid, 119], specificity of repertoire – “...he sings the Blues and other folk songs in a style of outstanding performers of spirituals (Sisters Rosetta Tharp) and he is a talented pianist” [ibid, 124].

J. Collier, noting the formation in the late 1950-s of new, commercial in its nature, trend in jazz music, which is characterized by the gradual breakaway from traditions of cool jazz and communication with Negro folklore ( gospel songs), blues, defines it as an "funky, or soul [3,p. 314] (we should note that funky in further is represented by researchers as a successor of soul), and in fact identifies it with hard-bop. "The words "soul" or "funky" were present on a larger part of released albums, which were instantly bought up," – the researcher notes [ibid]. In a modern pop and jazz vocal performance soul is represented as a mixed style, because it was formed under the influence of traditions of African and American folklore, and later synthesized the genre and stylistic features of jazz art with innovative searches in the field of contemporary popular music. The modern style of soul differ in experimental vocalist approach, which harmonically combines the extremely emotional form of intonation with a search of new ways of expression.

In musicology of the 2-nd part of XX century, the tradition of coverage of the essence and specifics of the soul in a context of jazz generally, is representative for musicology and it is combined with the trends of essential expanding and phenomenological concrete definition.

The vocal dominant of as that genetically reaches the gospels, and the lack of differentiation in the Negro culture of secular and religious foundations have led to the synthesis of high spirituality and mass culture, that attracted the audience at the level of cultural memory, gave to social and protest appeals the special highness and contained the considerable potential of communicative unity of a performer and audience.

Attention to the phenomenon of performance, which in present reality appears as an unrepeatable display of unique creative world, actualizes the personal origin in a context of culture in early twenty-first century. Reflecting such updating, soul at the same time displayed the modern culture trend of mixed unity of world and national art experience and at the same time different spheres of musical art: the African and American folk, blues and jazz, contributing to further formation of many areas of pop music in the 2nd half of XX – the beginning of XXI centuries.
In historical development of soul style a certain type of content has been formed – it is narrative character of development of thought with the elements of international and speech complex – from a relaxing story to an ecstatic anguish. The improvisational specificity of performance is laid on this fact.

Jazz and soul are similar in musical characteristics, social and cultural content by the combining into organic unity traditions of musical languages and cultures. Formed as an independent direction in the beginning of the 1960-s, soul became an embodiment and spiritual expression of the struggle for civil rights of African Americans.

The emergence of soul as an independent stylistic trend is genetically connected with the traditions of jazz music. As the performing style, soul has such features as assertive vocal, decorated with melismas – the long melodic singings on one syllable of text, which are performed in one breath, and with the using of specific vocal passages. The "question-responsive" principle of dialogue between a soloist and vocal group with vocals in the style of doo-wop was borrowed from the African and American church singing. In this regard soul, as an independent stylistic direction, today is relevant and actual in jazz music and modern pop culture, creating the new genre and stylistic modifications, transforming a musical life of modern world. Nowadays soul has become a truly international phenomenon, without which it is impossible to imagine the artistic culture of the twentieth century. Because soul was formed under the influence of tradition of jazz and vocal improvisation, in a process of performing there was an emphasis on the process of music-making, combining of improvisational and compositional approach, which can be attributed to the spontaneous composition of music. In a modern pop and jazz vocal performance, soul is represented as a mixed style, because it was formed under the influence of traditions of African and American folklore, and later it synthesized the genre and stylistic features of jazz art with innovative researches in the field of contemporary popular music. The modern style of soul differs in experimental approach of a vocalist, which harmonically combines an extremely emotional form of intonation with the search of new ways of expression. Speaking about the specifics of executive mastery of pop and jazz singer in soul style, we should focus on the individual characteristics of tumbrel qualities of voice and performance techniques used in a modern practice of vocalists. There are a lot of them: the creation of metro rhythmical improvisational conflicts, the responsorial technique, the labile intoning ("blues tones", shout-effects, off – pitch, dirty tones, growl-style), the glissando, the various melismata and embellishments. In addition, the singers try to imitate in "jazz style" in their improvisations, to instrumentalists, that is most clearly showed itself in the manner of so-called "scat-singing", especially in culminating zones. Thus, the specificity of soul as a kind of improvisational music, is in its origin, i.e. genre and stylistic and ideological synthesis of European and non-European musical cultures, and also in subsequent unique process of its development. The soul can be distinguished in the complex adaptations with many instruments, elegant harmony, brightly expressive melody and passionate heart-rending manner of execution, traditionally coming from the gospels and spirituals.

The soul as an independent direction in pop and jazz music in a second half of the XX century synthesized the genre and stylistic elements of jazz art with innovative researches in the field of contemporary popular pop music. The modern style of soul differs in experimental approach of a vocalist, which harmonically combines an extremely emotional manner of intoning with a complex of new musical and expressive means, performance techniques and ways of expression.

Thus, we can say that the concept of soul is more widely than the style or genre; it is a special world conception, characteristic emotional and psychological state, the way of musical singer statement, expressed through the individual performing manner and stylistics.

Having studied the creativity of American soul singers, it is possible to summarize some characteristics of their performing interpretation.

Firstly, the performing interpretation is due to, primarily, individual qualities of a singer – the jazz style of performance, the uniqueness of voice timbre, singing manner, and original phrasing.

Secondly, pop and jazz specifics of a vocal allows the singer to show most of all his individual qualities and to pass an immediate emotional feeling, an internal sentiment with a strong expressiveness.

Thirdly, the expressive manner of performance and improvisational freedom reflect the internal psychologism and philosophical meaning inherent for a content of the texts themselves.

Fourthly, the narrative nature of the performance as an outspoken conversation or lyrical confession in first person causes an approximation of jazz vocal to the speech intoning, and in more flexible compositions – an imitation in his improvisations to musical instrumentalists.

Fifthly, the stylistic jazz techniques, which are specific for soul style, occur depending on the internal state of performer. The sincerity and simplicity, the sudden dynamic rises and falls, the understatement or partiality of endings of phrases, the "unfinished singing", the typical husky after sounds and heart-rending intonations in a vocal performance interact with an instrumental accompaniment or back-vocal. All participants of action, who tell about real experienced events, are covered by a single energy of internal "drive".

An important factor for the performer-interpreter is getting used to a music text, and desire to make it his own, coauthor. Hence, there are peculiar features of performing style. Sometimes, instead of singing, you can rather hear the humming, allowing the speech intonations – the separate words, exclamations, cries, singing-whispering, and easier rhythmical interpretation, in which the rhythm fixed in a note text is just taken as a basis. Desiring to get closer to reality, the soul confirms one likely moment with another. It is here we are confronted with a specific attitude to the choice of timbre.
It is assigned the special task to give actor more expressiveness and personality, conveying the different psychological states of a human soul. The voice timbre of performer not only has a vital credibility and enhances its psychological effect on a listener, but also entertains with its specificity. The interest of soul to timbres is determined by the tendency to psychological concreteness and sound beauty.

The timbre feature is important not only in solos but also in ensembles, where it promotes the differentiation, definition of perception of participants, creates a timbral polyphony, and colorfully shades the different characters. In result, the vocal polyphony becomes more interesting and relief. In improvisational nature of intoning in soul style singer acts as co-creator, however, he is not rethinking the ideological and figurative content of author, but makes it like "his own", close to his view of the world, forming an performing text.

We have already focused on the specifics of soul as a kind of pop and jazz vocal, which shows itself in a special manner of performing.

This creates another issue that causes a stylistics of repertoire policy of a modern artist. In addition, one of the main tasks on a path to improvement is the search for his own sounding, original, specific and easily recognizable singing style and stage image.

The novelty of the article is determined by the analysis of current practice of pop and jazz performance and consists in coverage of peculiarities of manifestation and interpretation of features of soul and their specifics in modern pop music that will allow to refine the ideas about its stylistic sources, to diversify the styles variety of both integral and discrete (in form of individual features) representations entered the modern pop art. The discovered features of soul (at various levels of organization of music, imaginative and thematic and performing specificity) significantly actualize it in reality of the culture of early XXI century, which is characterized by the increasing of importance of personal, creative origin, and active understanding of man's place in society. This leads to the need of comprehensive study of soul and features of its performing modifications in Ukrainian pop music that serves as the prospects for further researches.

The prospects for future researches lie in further exploration of features of interpretation of soul specificities in modern pop music that will allow to refine the ideas about its stylistic sources, to diversify the methodical guides of domestic vocal and pedagogical school of pop singing and to comprehend the essence and specificity of intercultural dialogue in synchrony and diachrony in contemporary musical culture.

Література

References