

**THE USE OF THE OBOE AND COR ANGLAIS IN THE FIFTEEN
SYMPHONIES OF DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH (1906-1975)**

by

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to investigate Shostakovich's orchestration technique pertaining to the oboe and cor anglais in his 15 symphonies. The author tried to determine whether there are recurring elements which are specific to Shostakovich's style and can be seen as typical of the composer's writing.

Preceded by a thorough biographical and orchestration study, the oboe and cor anglais parts of all Shostakovich's symphonic scores were assembled and thoroughly analysed. Findings were catalogued in a card system.

The first chapter is introductory and supplies general information. A short biography follows in Chapter 2. Chapter 3 provides a discussion of the main trends of orchestration for the oboe and cor anglais through selected prominent symphonic composers and representative symphonies. Chapters 4-8 contain the most important findings of the author's analyses under the following headings: tonguing and articulation; melodic aspects; dynamic aspects; rhythmic aspects; and combination of instruments. Chapter 9 consists of a summary of the most important conclusions of the study. Appendix A contains a list of the instrumentation of the 15 symphonies. Appendix B provides a list of examples, and is followed by the List of Sources which is divided into three sections: books, articles and dissertations; scores; and sound recordings.

The most important conclusions drawn are the following:

- Shostakovich's symphonic repertoire requires very precise technique and affords the oboist the opportunity to use single, double and even triple tonguing. Articulation is specified very clearly and generally expresses his melodic and dynamic ideas very well.
- Shostakovich's knowledge and understanding of the oboe and cor anglais are most clearly reflected in the allocation of solo material throughout his 15 symphonies.

- The technical and lyrical capabilities of the oboe and cor anglais are tactfully exploited.
- Shostakovich tests the dynamic capabilities of the oboe and cor anglais and takes advantage of their harsh timbre by writing passages at loud dynamic levels.
- Unusual unison combinations reveal Shostakovich's timbre preferences.

An analysis of Shostakovich's writing for the oboe and cor anglais reveals the accessibility of the music from a performer's point of view. The symphonies are, however, a test of endurance for players in many instances. This study has proved the composer as a sensitive orchestrator in the 15 symphonies and confirms Shostakovich as one of the greatest symphonic composers of the 20th century.

OPSOMMING

Die doel van die studie was om Shostakovich se orkestrasietegniek vir die hobo en cor anglais in sy 15 simfonieë te bepaal. Die skrywer moes vasstel of daar herhalende elemente voorkom wat eie is aan en tipies is van die komponis se skryfstyl.

Al die hobo en cor anglais partiture is versamel en deeglik geanaliseer, na 'n deeglike biografiese en orkestrasiestudie. Bevindings is deur middel van 'n kaartsistiem gekatalogiseer.

Die eerste hoofstuk is inleidend en verskaf algemene inligting. In Hoofstuk 2 volg 'n kort biografie. Hoofstuk 3 verskaf 'n bespreking van die belangrikste neigings in die orkestrasie vir die hobo en cor anglais deur 'n seleksie van die voorste simfoniekomponiste en hulle verteenwoordigende simfonieë. Hoofstuk 4-8 bevat die belangrikste bevindings van die ontleding onder die volgende opskrifte: tonging en artikulasie; melodiese aspekte; dinamiese aspekte; ritmiese aspekte; sowel as kombinasie van instrumente. Hoofstuk 9 bestaan uit 'n opsomming van die belangrikste bevindings van die studie. Bylae A bevat 'n instrumentasielys van die 15 simfonieë. Bylae B bestaan uit 'n lys van voorbeelde en word gevolg deur die Bronnelys wat in drie afdelings verdeel is: boeke, artikels en verhandelings; partiture; en 'n diskografie.

Die belangrikste bevindings waartoe in hierdie studie gekom is, is die volgende:

- Shostakovich se simfoniese repertoire vereis uiters noukeurige tegniek en verskaf die geleentheid aan die hobospeler om enkel, dubbel en drievoudig te tong. Artikulasie word baie duidelik gespesifiseer, en benadruk Shostakovich se melodiese en dinamiese idees.
- Shostakovich se kennis en begrip van die hobo en cor anglais word duidelik gereflekteer in die toekenning van solo-materiaal regdeur sy 15 simfonieë. Die hobo en cor anglais se tegniese en liriese vaardighede word takties geëksploiteer.
- Shostakovich toets die dinamiese vaardighede van die hobo- en cor anglais-speler en benut die skel timbre deur passasies in luide dinamiese vlakke te skryf.
- Ongewone unisoorkombinasies openbaar Shostakovich se timbre-voorkeure.

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