

Article received on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010  
Article accepted on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
UDC 784.4(470):061.3"2010"

*Mirjana Zakić\**

**THE SECOND ALL-RUSSIAN  
CONGRESS OF FOLKLORISTS**

National Republican Centre for  
Russian Folklore  
Moscow, 1–5 February 2010

The Second All-Russian Congress of Folklorists was held in Moscow and in the town of Ershovo near Zvenigorod (about forty kilometres from Moscow), from February 1<sup>st</sup> to February 5<sup>th</sup> 2010. The idea about organizing such large scientific events every five years (the First Congress was held in 2005 and four volumes of proceedings were published), initiated by the National Centre for Russian Folklore, headed by A. S. Kargin, was understood properly and received well in various artistic, scientific, pedagogical and research

institutions of Russia. With the support of the Ministry of Culture of Russia, the organizer of these meetings (The National Centre for Russian Folklore) already managed to publish the first volume of proceedings from the Second Congress, and the remaining volumes are expected to be published by the end of this year.

With the number of participants and the scope of thematic frameworks, this scientific meeting is one of the largest international congresses. More than 500 scientists from about 80 cities around Russia, and about 20 scientists from 17 other countries took part in the Second Congress. After the opening ceremony in the great hall of the Central Chamber of Scientists in Moscow and a lavish folklore programme, the further activities of the Congress took place in the Ershovo resort (a former aristocratic home and estate in Podmoskovie). The items and reports were submitted within 13 sections, 14 round tables and 2 debate clubs.

The sections dealt with the following subjects: the complex textology and poetics of folklore; literature, art and folklore; the contemporary forms of folklore; problems in studies of musical folklore; the theoretical and practical aspects of ethnomusicology; the language of folklore; folklore in the contemporary, general educational process; the problems in studies and the preservation of decorative applied art and artistic folk craftsmanship; folklore – mythology, folk beliefs, demonology; choreographic folklore; problems in studies and embodiment; problems in folklore performance and ethnoorganological issues; the history of science; folklore and ethnography today. The round tables focused on the more specific problem circle of folklore, such as genres (epic poems, stories, incantations, lamentations, dances) and some special issues (ethnobotany, interdisciplinary research, interethnic processes, folklore and the Internet, the preservation of folklore...)

\* Author contact information:  
mira.zakic@gmail.com.

The ethnomusicological and ethno-organological section included around 60 scientists from: Russia (mostly from Moscow and Saint Petersburg), other states of the former USSR, Poland, Japan and Serbia. The presented works covered a wide scope of scientific issues, from the history of Russian musical folkloristics, the methodology of field work and transcription, to the genre typology of musical folklore and musical dialects, musical-stylistic and structural-typological analysis, improvisation, characteristics and geographical range of instruments, to the relationship of folk singing and religious chant, the genre of revolutionary songs and folklore in contemporary conditions.

The continuously developing field research methodology of Russian scientific school once more enriched its pool of folk knowledge about the music of oral tradition. The considered musical codes of rituals mostly focused on the analysis of wedding songs (N. S. Kuznetsova, G. P. Khristova, N. V. Leonova...), as well as the issue of the genre (categorical) designation of group singing at the North-Russian wedding (V. A. Lapin) or the genre of lyrical songs (M. A. Engovatova). Consideration of musical dialects covered the issues of musical-ethnic identification in the contact zones (N. A. Yunisovna), the geography of regional music traditions with the cartography of musical folklore (L. M. Belogurova, N. N. Gilyarova, J. Jovanović...). The problem array of musical-stylistic and structural analysis was dedicated, among other things, to the issue of typological melodies, the methodology of tone scales, the aspect of timbre and articulation (S. V. Kosireva...), the typology of ritual intonation (G. B. Sichenko...). Within the context of collecting and preserving musical folklore, special attention was paid to the existence of folklore in contemporary conditions, i.e. contemporary tendencies in the evolution

of musical folklore in rural and urban surroundings (V. M. Shchurov...), as well as to the didactic model of the body of musical folklore (E. E. Vasilyeva, I. S. Popova). The domain of ethnoorganology contained certain forms of idiophone instruments (O. V. Gordienko), the accordion from Saratov, the balalaika in a 21<sup>st</sup> century Russian village (O. K. Yunoki), the creative magic of folk players, the methodics of handing down traditional music-making on shepherd instruments, aerophone instruments in Serbia in the context of the East and the West (M. Zakić).

Within the performance-pedagogical part, the most topical issues were those connected with the vocal technique and performance interpretation of a folk song (I. L. Egorova, A. A. Kozirev).

All the reports were presented in the Russian language. The outlined thematic array of the Congress allowed the scientists and active performers to comprehend various aspects of the perception of traditional culture. From the firmly founded positions of the Russian ethnomusicological school, with its dominant musicological and national orientation, the majority of reports used a pronounced interdisciplinary methodology, based upon the connections between the approaches of ethnomusicology, ethnoorganology, ethnochoreology, linguistics, literature theory, ethnology, anthropology, communication, semiology, hermeneutics, cognitive psychology...

The activities in all the sections were permeated by intensive and thought-provoking scientific exchange. The exceptional atmosphere of the gathering was enhanced by the concerts of rich and highly diverse folk music from various parts of Russia, as well as documentary films about folklore and traditional culture.

Three Serbian scientists took part in the Second Congress: philologist Ljubinko Radenković, PhD, ethnomusicologists Jelena Jovanović, MA, and Mirjana Zakić, PhD.

Our participation in this congress had great significance, because of a valuable insight into the evolution of the methodology and achievements of the Russian scientific school, but also because of the direct exchange with all the Congress participants,

particularly the performers who presented the abundance and the specific traits of the musical languages of different nations.

Translated by Goran Kapetanović