

## MUSICAL PERFORMANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTEMPORARY MUSICAL ART

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**SUMMARY.** The study aims to determine the specifics of musical performance in the context of the development of contemporary music, considering various musical genres. The methods of analysis, comparison, calculation of the Cronbach's coefficient, and Fisher criterion were used to achieve this goal. It has been established that the most characteristic elements of classical music are an academic approach to interpretation and the embodiment of artistic and aesthetic components. It has been proven that the characteristic features of contemporary music performance are improvisation ( $\alpha=0.837$ ), emotional expressiveness ( $\alpha=0.823$ ), and non-standard note combinations (0.819). The practical significance of the work lies in the possibility of using the established features of musical genres for their qualitative interpretation during the educational process.

**Keywords:** genre and style constants, musical stylisation, musical image, vocal performance, instrumental performance, performance technique.

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## Introduction

Contemporary ways of interpreting musical works are a popular topic for research, as they are how musicians show their individuality. Modern interpretation of musical works (vocal, choral, or instrumental) is connected to various forms of musical stylisation<sup>6</sup>.

Musical performance is a creative process based on formed musical skills, which involves rethinking information<sup>7</sup>. Modern musical performance is associated with improvisational skills, which affects the updated sound of well-known compositions or the uniqueness of performing new musical compositions. For contemporary music, an important criterion is the aesthetic value of the composition, the ability to reflect the best musical aspect and the creative perception of the composition<sup>8</sup>. This is the basis for musical performance's artistry, reproducing sound's uniqueness<sup>9</sup>. A promising mechanism of high-quality musical interpretation is the awareness of the depth of a musical work, which ensures the transmission of cultural and spiritual values<sup>10</sup>.

The theoretical study of the problem allowed us to determine the gaps in a comprehensive survey of vocal, choral and instrumental music, which affects the reflection of the current state of music. The study aims to determine the peculiarities of musical performance based on the development of contemporary musical art, considering the specifics of musical genres. The objectives of the study are as follows:

- to identify genre and style constants of contemporary music that reflect the characteristic features of vocal, choral and instrumental music;
- to identify ways of performing compositions of different genres, which affect their greater expressiveness;

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<sup>6</sup> Utz, Christian. "Reimagining Formal Functions in Post-Tonal Music: Temporality in the Semanticized Form of Salvatore Sciarrino." In *Music Theory Online*, 29, 4, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.30535/mto.29.4.7>

<sup>7</sup> Yan, Jie, and Hu, Mingzhao. "Emotional Characterization Mining in Music Performance and Its Guiding Role." In *Applied Mathematics and Nonlinear Sciences*, 9, 1, art. 20241325. <https://doi.org/10.2478/amns-2024-1325>

<sup>8</sup> Wu, Feng, and Wu, Haiqing. "Application of Emotion Recognition Technology Based on Support Vector Machine Algorithm in Interactive Music Visualization System." In *Learning and Analytics in Intelligent Systems*, 33, 2023, pp. 515-524. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-38651-0\\_51](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-38651-0_51)

<sup>9</sup> Thompson, Marc R., Mendoza, Juan Ignacio, Luck, Geoff, and Vuoskoski, Jonna K. "Relationships Between Audio and Movement Features, and Perceived Emotions in Musical Performance." In *Music and Science*, 6, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1177/20592043231177871>

<sup>10</sup> Levytska, Oksana, Lystvak, Halyna, Vasiuta, Svitlana, and Zelinska, Nadiia. "The Market of Ukrainian Printed Books with Augmented Reality: Assortment, Problems and Communicative Aspects." In *CEUR Workshop Proceedings*, 3296, 2023, pp. 128-140. <https://ceur-ws.org/Vol-3296/paper10.pdf> (date of access 25.08.2024)

- to identify the peculiarities of individual and composer's decisions for a qualitative interpretation of musical works;
- to determine the quality of students' performance of musical compositions, focusing on individual vocal performance, choral, and instrumental performance.

### Literature review

Transformational methods of contemporary music performance can be implemented through theatre. The process can be realised due to social influence, which contributes to adapting performances to the audience's requirements. New productions have been formed based on Shakespearean plays adapted to the audience, influencing the contemporary representation of classical performances<sup>11</sup>. Interpreting folklore compositions in a modern setting promotes intercultural dialogue, modernisation of the creative process, and transmitting spiritual culture<sup>12</sup>. The art of playing musical instruments can be mastered through distance learning with the use of digital technologies Udemy, Google Class, Skillshare. High-quality musical interpretation can be achieved by developing practical skills and polyphonic playing<sup>13</sup>.

Professional music performance ensures a comprehensive understanding of musical compositions, contributing to the perception of musical emotions. Improving one's experience affects the ability to give individual features to a piece of music, leading to non-standard performance<sup>14</sup>. The performance quality of contemporary music depends on the practical and artistic knowledge gained. Immersion in a musical composition affects a better immersion in musical performance and identifies various aspects of multidimensional interpretation<sup>15</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> Lonergan, Patrick. *Theatre and Social Media: Revised Edition*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2024. <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/theatre-and-social-media-9781350464957/> (date of access 25.08.2024)

<sup>12</sup> Rexhepi, Flutura Gagica, Breznica, Rreze Kryeziu, Luzha, Besa, and Mehmedi, Lulzim. "Multimedia Tools Integration in the Musical Education Teaching Process." In *Scientific Herald of Uzhhorod University. Series Physics*, 55, 2024, pp. 2855-2864. <https://doi.org/10.54919/physics/55.2024.285wo5>

<sup>13</sup> Liu, Xueli, and Shao, Xin. "Modern Mobile Learning Technologies in Online Piano Education: Online Educational Course Design and Impact on Learning." In *Interactive Learning Environments*, 32, 4, 2024, pp. 1279-1290. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10494820.2022.2118787>

<sup>14</sup> Gerstgrasser, S., Vigl, J., and Zentner, M. "The Role of Listener Features in Musical Emotion Induction: The Contributions of Musical Expertise, Personality Dispositions, and Mood State." In *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts*, 17, 2, 2023, pp. 211-224. <https://doi.org/10.1037/aca0000468>

<sup>15</sup> Bechtold, Toni A., Kilchenmann, Lorenz, Curry, Ben, and Witek, Maria A. G. "Understanding the Relationship Between Catchiness and Groove: A Qualitative Study with Popular Music Creators." In *Music Perception*, 40, 5, 2023, pp. 353-372. <https://doi.org/10.1525/mp.2023.40.5.353>

Based on the literature review, it was found that the peculiarities of performing modern compositions are related to the possibility of using a meaningful approach when performing musical compositions. However, the influence of the peculiarities of genre and style constants on the interpretation of musical compositions has not been sufficiently considered, which creates gaps in the research question.

## Materials and methods

### *The research procedure*

The study's first stage aimed to identify contemporary music's genre and component constants. The process involved searching for the characteristic features of modern music genres based on listening to them and analysing scientific literature<sup>16, 17, 18, 19</sup>. The second stage of the study was related to the search for mechanisms that provide the ability to focus on different approaches to performing compositions. The second stage additionally identified individual musical solutions that contribute to the renewal of ways of interpreting contemporary music. In the third stage of the study, we involved the respondents to determine the quality of the musical interpretation of the compositions, focusing on their genre features.

### *Sampling*

Sampling was done with the help of music specialities students. Respondents' involvement was necessary for the third stage of the study, which allowed us to verify the effectiveness of the established stylistic features of different musical genres based on practical approaches. The study involved 195 fourth-year students with musical vocal or instrumental skills. The students studied at the same university (Kharkiv I. Kotlyarevsky National University of Arts) at the Departments of Choral Conducting and Folk Instruments of Ukraine. The students were divided into groups of 65 depending on their specialisation specifics. The grouping involved the performance of musical compositions through individual performance (group 1), choral performance (group 2), and instrumental performance (group 3).

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<sup>16</sup> Shevchenko, Liliia, Mogylevska, Iryna M., Chuprina, Nataliia, Hodina, Inna, and Rusiaieva, Maryna. "Theoretical and Practical Foundations of Concert and Performance Activity." In *Música Hodie*, 23. 2023. <https://doi.org/10.5216/mh.v23.75286>

<sup>17</sup> Thompson, Marc R., Mendoza, Juan Ignacio, Luck, Geoff, and Vuoskoski, Jonna K. "Relationships Between Audio and Movement Features, and Perceived Emotions in Musical Performance." In *Music and Science*, 6, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1177/20592043231177871>

<sup>18</sup> Padilla, J. M. F. "The Early Music, Beyond the Score." In *Itamar*, 2024, 10, 2024, pp. 324-331.

<sup>19</sup> Yan, Jie, and Hu, Mingzhao. "Emotional Characterization Mining in Music Performance and Its Guiding Role." In *Applied Mathematics and Nonlinear Sciences*, 9, 1, art. 20241325. <https://doi.org/10.2478/amns-2024-1325>

### *Methods*

The analysis of genre and style constants of contemporary music was done through the theoretical method. 280 musical compositions from classical, sacred, popular, folk and rock music were selected for the study. The possibility of establishing the most characteristic features of each music genre was determined by the percentage values. The method of comparison was used to compare different vocal genres with the peculiarities of interpretation. The Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used for the calculations<sup>20</sup>. It aims to measure the level of coherence of various elements. The calculations were based on conditional indicators, which were determined by looking for the advantages of some indicators over others.

Individual vocal and compositional solutions were determined based on the analysis of musical compositions at the first stage of the study to ensure the expressiveness of the performance and the originality of the sound of each composition. The calculation of the most influential elements for each composition was established by calculating Cronbach's alpha coefficient.

To prepare for vocal and choral training, students used the "Lick of the Day" application, which analysed musical parts. Students were supposed to use the "Flowkey" application to study instrumental parts. Instrumental performance involves playing traditional musical instruments (flute, bandura, kobza) or guitar. Assessment of the quality of vocal, choral performance, and instrumental playing was based on comparing all the methods of interpretation received by students. We used Fisher's criterion for the calculations, which helps distribute statistical calculations by considering sample variances<sup>21</sup>.

### **Results**

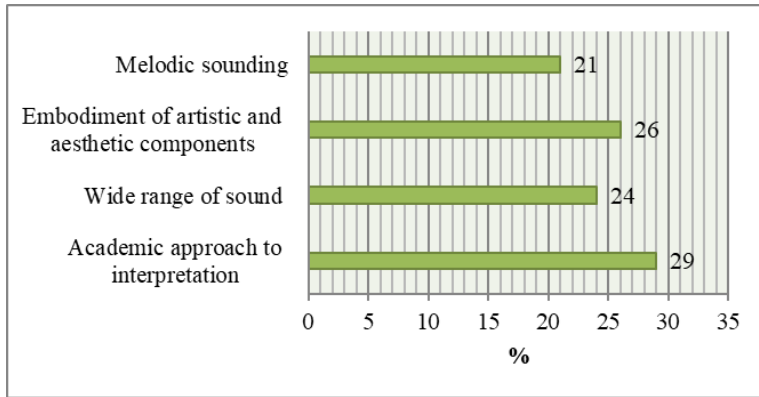
Music is characterised by various genres, which require considering significant features to ensure a better interpretation. The study focused on contemporary music, contributing to a more local study. The results were presented using percentage values (Figure 1).

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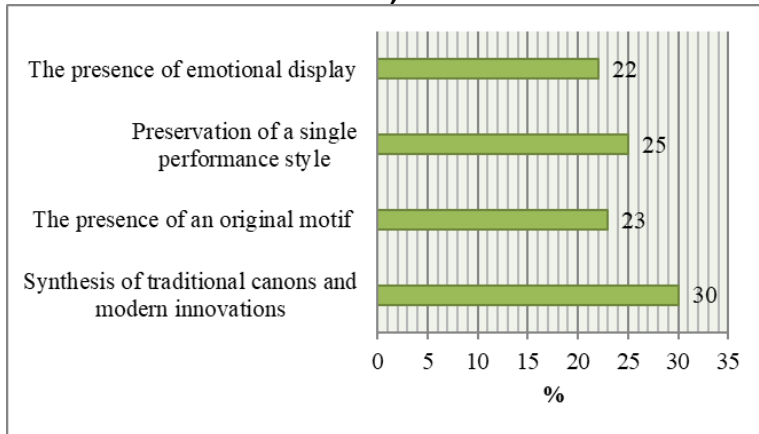
<sup>20</sup> Diachenko Iurii, Ovchar, Oleksandr, Dubka, Oleksandr, Pastukhov, Oleksandr, Duve, Khrystyna, and Kostiuik, Dmytro. "Psychological and Pedagogical Study of Neurotic Reactions of Higher Education Students During the Implementation of the form of Control". In *International Journal of Computer Science and Network Security*, 21, 11, 2021, pp. 151-156. [http://paper.ijcsns.org/07\\_book/202111/20211120.pdf](http://paper.ijcsns.org/07_book/202111/20211120.pdf) (date of access 25.08.2024)

<sup>21</sup> Barabash, Olena, and Weigang, Ganna. "Mathematical Modeling of the Summarizing Index for the Biosystems Status as a Tool to Control the Functioning of the Environmental Management System at Business Entities." In *Mathematical Modeling and Simulation of Systems (MODS'2020)*. Ed: Shkarlet, S., Morozov, A., Palagin, A. Cham: Springer, 2021, pp. 56-66. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-58124-4\\_6](http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-58124-4_6)

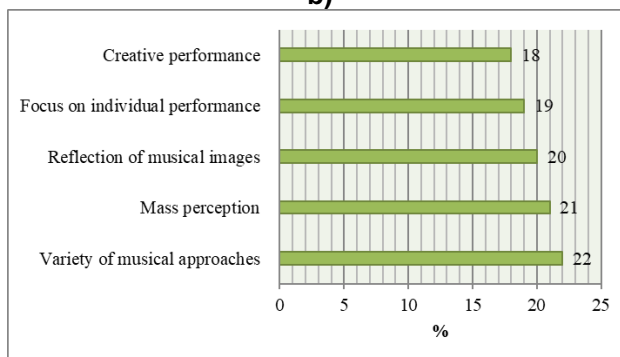
**Figure 1**



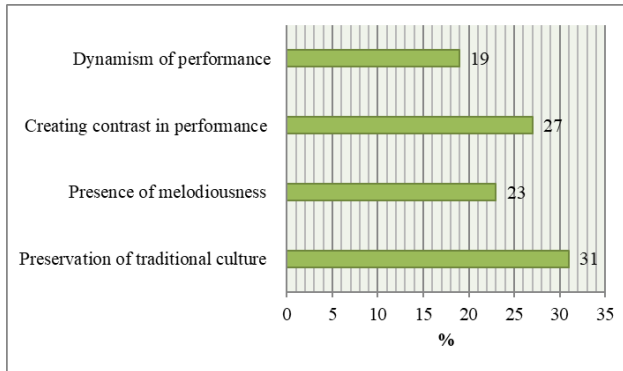
**a)**



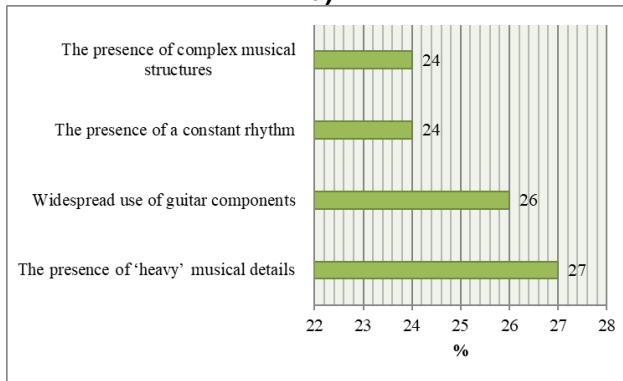
**b)**



**c)**



d)



e)

**Genre and style constants of contemporary music:  
a) classical music; b) sacred music; c) popular music; d) folk music in  
modern arrangements; e) rock music**

*Source: compiled by the author*

Classical music is characterised by more correct, academic forms. This is manifested in instrumental and vocal performance and harmonious combination of text and music. Sacred music in contemporary musical art is less common than in other genres, but it is widely used in traditional and religious ceremonies. Popular music is characterised by creativeness, non-observance of musical laws, preservation of a single plot throughout the composition. It is essential for popular music to preserve individuality, which is related to the level of professionalism of vocalists and their emotional perception. Modern folk music is characterised by preserving national traditions. It reflects the people's spirituality and philosophy, manifested in timbre, intonation, sound range changes, and other indicators that provide

contrast in performance. Rock music aims to reflect complex musical structures by creating an extraordinary rhythm. Guitar chords are used more often, reflecting a more intense sound.

Based on the established characteristics of different genres of music, the authors determined which approaches to interpretation could be applied. The study was planned to assess the possibility of vocal, choral, instrumental (guitar), and orchestral performance. The results are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1**

Music genres	Vocal performance	Choral performance	Instrumental performance		Orchestral performance
			Piano	guitar	
Classical music	0,832	0,753	0,832	0,621	0,830
Sacred music	0,817	0,837	0,815	0,623	0,818
Popular music	0,829	0,715	0,820	0,826	0,703
Folk music in modern arrangement	0,831	0,832	0,831	0,732	0,830
Rock music	0,827	0,621	0,728	0,828	0,736

**Peculiarities of performing compositions of different musical genres**

*Source: compiled by the author*

The possibility of performing classical music with an organised sound space affects the transmission of the necessary expression and pronounced intonation. When performing classical music on the guitar, achieving the desired level of emotionality is impossible due to the complexity of musical compositions. The performance of sacred music includes preserving folk traditions and reflecting on symbolic content, which requires high-quality musical processing. Popular music is not tied to a particular style of performance; it is more accessible, which ensures its high-quality vocal or instrumental performance with a guitar. It is more challenging to implement a choral performance if the composition is written for one voice. Folk music in modern arrangements is the most adapted to different types of performance. This is due to folk music's simpler motifs and combination of sounds.

During the study, it was determined which individual vocal and compositional solutions can be used to interpret music. To this end, Cronbach's alpha coefficient was calculated (Table 2).



**Table 2**

<b>Criteria of individuality</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>α</b>
Improvisation	4,27	1,49	0,837
Emotional expressiveness	4,21	1,42	0,823
Aesthetics	4,18	1,36	0,798
Non-standard note combinations	4,20	1,39	0,819
Increasing the dynamics of performance	4,15	1,34	0,783

**Individual characteristics to ensure a non-standard approach to music interpretation**

*Source: compiled by the author*

Ensuring the expressive performance of contemporary music is realised through improvisation techniques, resulting in increased interest among listeners. Emotional expressiveness and non-standard note combinations influence the spontaneity of performance, which ensures the transmission of the necessary meaning. To improve performance aesthetics, developing innovative skills that will allow you to form your musical style is essential.

The level of musical performance by students of contemporary music was established based on the use of digital applications “Lick of the Day” and “Flowkey.” The results were distributed among students playing individual vocal, choral, and instrumental pieces. The study's final stage aimed to determine the possibility of students' use of genre and style constants of contemporary music, established in the first stage of the study (Table 3).

**Table 3**

<b>Peculiarities of performance</b>	<b>Before the study, SD</b>	<b>After the survey, SD</b>	<b>Fisher criterion (φ)</b>	<b>p-value</b>	<b>Corrected p-value</b>
Individual vocals	13,21	28,90	6,922	0,012*	0,068*
Choral performance	10,45	18,51	5,397	0,043*	0,083*
Instrumental performance	13,43	22,13	6,673	0,029*	0,075*

*\* indicators that reflect the lack of similarity between the results before and after the study*

**Students' performance of musical compositions with observance of musical genres' peculiarities**

*Source: compiled by the author*

Individual vocal performance was achieved at a higher level, as students could ensure the use of the author's interpretation techniques. The choice of emotional musical elements influenced the original performance, which was based on the application of creative skills. During the performance,

the students adhered to a single style, contributing to the reflection of musical images. The high-level instrumental performance allowed students to convey the necessary level of emotionality and contrast. Among choral performers, worse results were achieved, as there were violations of harmony in the comparison of voices when changing the pitch.

## Discussion

Modern performance is rich in various symbolic elements. Processing a musical composition is possible due to interactive “Ring” technology, which facilitates the distribution of music scores with optical music recognition. It is essential to ensure that a particular key and beat size are displayed during performance<sup>22</sup>. A highly positive assessment of listeners can be made due to the performers' transmission of aesthetic experiences and the use of social experience, which affects the ability to balance the shortcomings of concert performances<sup>23</sup>. The qualitative interpretation of contemporary music in different genres depends on the ways of perceiving information and the repertoire used for learning<sup>24</sup>. The article dwells on the non-standard ways of interpreting melodies, which affects the aesthetics of musical performance. This study identified the features of classical music, sacred music, popular music, folk music in modern arrangements, and rock music.

Focusing on developing musical abilities and emotionality during music training is essential. Information technology will contribute to understanding musical genres' correct features, which improves professional skills. Such digital applications can be Vivace, Flow, Ear Trainer, and Chordana Play<sup>25</sup>. In the present study, innovative technologies were implemented to prepare respondents for individual vocal, choral and instrumental performances, focusing on the characteristics of each genre of music.

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<sup>22</sup> Batovska, Olena, Grebenuk, Natalia, and Byelik-Zolotaryova, Nataliya, Ivanova, Yuliia, Sukhomlinova, Tetiana, and Kaushnian, Iana. “Traditions and Innovations in Contemporary Vocal and Choral Art.” In *Studia Ubb Musica*, LXVII, 2, 2022, pp. 73-98. <https://doi.org/10.24193/subbmusica.2022.spiss2.06>

<sup>23</sup> Wald-Fuhrmann, Melanie, O'Neill, Katherine, Weining, Christian, Egermann, Hauke, and Tröndle, Martin. “The Influence of Formats and Preferences on the Aesthetic Experience of Classical Music Concert Streams.” In *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts*, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1037/aca0000560>

<sup>24</sup> Chaffin, Roger, Ginsborg, Jane, Dixon, James, and Demos, Alexander P. “Recovery from Memory Failure when Recalling a Memorized Performance: The role of Musical Structure and Performance Cues.” In *Musicae Scientiae*, 27, 1, 2023, pp. 94-116. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10298649211025491>

<sup>25</sup> Yao, Bing, and Li, Weiwei. “The Role of a Teacher in Modern Music Education: Can a Student Learn Music with the Help of Modernized Online Educational Technologies Without Teachers?” In *Education and Information Technologies*, 28, 2023, pp. 14595-14610. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10639-023-11786-6>

Creating lyrical interpretations will enable you to provide insight into musical rhythms and notes, which affects a unique performance style. The synthesis of musical genres affects the ability to convey a more vivid performance, considering the possible nuances of music<sup>26</sup>. Based on the improvement of logical memory, musicians develop a better understanding of how to interpret melodies, which increases their performance abilities<sup>27</sup>.

The discussion of scientific articles allowed us to determine their priority focus on ensuring non-standard approaches to the performance of melodies, which is associated with the need to develop logical memory and techniques for creating the aesthetics of musical performance. The results contributed to achieving the goal of focusing on understanding the features of musical genres used in modern performance. Emphasis was also placed on assessing the quality of student's performance of musical compositions, which ensures an understanding of the specifics of various musical works.

### *Limitations*

The study's limitations aim to consider the peculiarities of performing contemporary music under the influence of the development of modern art. The presented limitations do not reflect the gaps in our research but are the basis for a more detailed study of the research question in future studies.

### *Recommendations*

Studying the peculiarities of contemporary music performance by genre allows us to understand the interpretation of different melodies. This will help to enhance students' practical skills in performing melodies. Understanding the specifics of musical genres broadens students' horizons and provides a search for new approaches to interpreting musical works.

## **Conclusions**

Considering the results obtained, it is possible to conclude that the study is relevant. The paper reveals the impact of different ways of performing melodies on the transmission of the necessary expressiveness, depending

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<sup>26</sup> Odusanya, Oluseun Sunday, and Idolor, Emurobome G. "Adapting Apala Music Performance Techniques to Conducting Yoruba Art Choral Works." In *Central Asian Journal of Arts and Design*, 4, 11, 2023, pp. 1-14. <https://cajad.centralasianstudies.org/index.php/CAJAD/article/view/433> (date of access 25.08.2024)

<sup>27</sup> Wang, Xueyan, Soshi, Takahiro, Yamashita, Masatoshi, Kakihara Marcelo, Tsutsumi, Takanobu, Iwasaki, Shoko, and Sekiyama, Kaoru. "Effects of a 10-Week Musical Instrument Training on Cognitive Function in Healthy Older Adults: Implications for Desirable Tests and Period of Training." In *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*, 15, 2023, art. 1180259. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnagi.2023.1180259>

on the genre of music. It was found that vocal performance is most typical for classical, popular folk music and rock music. Choral singing is the most common in sacred, classical and folk music, providing the necessary level of emotionality based on polyphonic approaches. Instrumental piano performance is typical for classical and folk music, and guitar performance is typical for popular and rock music due to a more expressive musical sound. The orchestral approach to performance can be used for folk music in modern arrangements and classical music, ensuring the musical sound's richness. It has been found that the most common compositional techniques used in contemporary music are improvisation, emotional expressiveness.

The practical significance of the work is aimed at the possibility of using the characteristic genre and style features of music in the training of future musicians. Prospects for further research are aimed at studying the influence of music from different countries on the formation of modern musical culture.

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