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**THE REPRESENTATIVE BRASS BAND OF THE  
NATIONAL GUARDS UNIT OF BULGARIA:  
INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN THE CONTEMPORARY  
URBANISM AND FOLKLORE AT PRESENT TIME**



The text examines the intermediary role of The Representative Brass Band of the National Guards Unit of Bulgaria in the folklore and urbanism in the early XXI century. The Guards Band mainly performs ceremonial and concert music. The subject of the research is the concert performance. For the first time, it has been studied the background, repertoire, stage and media implementation of the folklore embodied in the Representative Brass Band of the National Guards Unit concert performance as elements of the urban culture – national and European. In the course of the research, the following tasks are implemented, which also determine the structure of the text: the Representative Brass Band of the National Guards Unit – function and place in culture; conductor – professional appearance; repertoire – the role of the folklore in it; mission – the creative vision and projects; stage performances – national and European performances; media – productions of stage concert performances. The focus will be on critically based issues related to the conductor's mission, trying to impose not only the Guards Band ceremonial and concert performances, but also the band's successful musical projects, which are based on folklore and released as a stage and media product.

**Key words:** music, Guards Band, conductor, folklore, stage performances, media.

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In the process of analysing the facts and factors, which led to the conversion, transformation and interpretation of the Representative Brass Band of the National Guards Unit cultural products, could be identified and interpreted several major trends in different ways and perspectives. A series of questions could be addressed and replied. Regarding the orchestra: what is the purpose and role of the orchestra in cultural life? About the repertoire: could it be possible to have a diverse image, if the conductor had another professional background different from the present conductor's experience unless he is a composer? Would the folklore find a place in the band's repertoire unless it was perceived as a means of education and recognized the significance of our traditional musical heritage which is part of the world's cultural diversity? Concerning the concert performance: would it be possible to have the entire program of each concert updated only if being a good composer, without being a great maestro? About stage performances: would there be so many pieces of music implementing the folklore, unless it was the band conductor's guiding principle to promote it to a wide audience on stage and in the media? In terms of the band media promotion: would it constantly attract and maintain the interest of the audience, unless a classical repertoire with multi-genre collaborations are presented along with our national traditional music, in accordance with the tastes and expectations of the audience?

The text attempts to answer some of the questions whereas others will be examined in subsequent publications on this topic.

## Foundation and Functions

The Representative Brass Band is part of the National Guard Unit which dated back since XIX century. This was carried out by Order No 5<sup>3</sup> of July 12<sup>th</sup>, 1878 of *Knyaz* (Prince) Alexander Dondukov-Korsakov<sup>4</sup>. The first Bulgarian knyaz Alexander I Battenberg<sup>5</sup> was

<sup>3</sup> In accordance with this Order were founded six horse *sotnias* (regiments) in the Bulgarian Land Forces: 1<sup>st</sup> Sofia Horse Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vidin Horse Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tarnovo Horse Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Ruse Horse Regiment, 5<sup>th</sup> Plovdiv Horse Regiment and 6<sup>th</sup> Sliven Horse Regiment (Прокопиев 2005:13). *Сотня* (Russian) – a military unit consisting of 100 people.

<sup>4</sup> Alexander Mihaylovich Dondukov-Korsakov (1820–1893) was a Russian Imperial Commissar, charged with heading the Russian Provisional Government and laying the foundation of the Principality of Bulgaria in accordance with the requirements of the Treaty of Berlin (1878) after the Liberation of Bulgaria from Ottoman rule on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1878. The Bulgarian Land Forces were being founded and the foundations of the administrative, judicial, executive, financial and educational system of the country were being laid. (Лазаров, Павлов et al. 1993: 180–181).

<sup>5</sup> Prince of German descent, who participated in the Russo-Turkish War 1877–1878 as part

elected on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1879 by the Grand National Assembly and the need for a national guard had arisen, as for being a personal guard of the Knyaz and on the other hand conducting official ceremonies on solemn occasions, which the Protocol of each state and Monarchical court impose. This honor was bestowed on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sofia Horse Regiment<sup>6</sup>, which was designated by Battenberg as his own convoy (Прокопиев 2005: 13, 16, 17; Юбилеен сборник: 8). The Knyaz escort firstly served Knyaz Alexander I Battenberg from 1879 to 1887<sup>7</sup>, then Knyaz Ferdinand<sup>8</sup> from 1887 to 1908, later as *Tsar*<sup>9</sup> (King) from 1908 to 1918, afterwards guarded Tsar Boris III the Unifier<sup>10</sup> from 1918 to 1943<sup>11</sup>, finally Tsar Simeon II Saxe-Coburg-Gotha was guarded from 1943 to 1946. In 1892 this Representative Cavalry Regiment Unit was restructured to Lifeguard Squadron and which “is the only unit with representative, ceremonial and military functions in the country to serve the Royal Family and the Parliament” (Ръцев 2013: 30). The duties of the guard service consist of securing (Прокопиев 2005: 16), escorting (Юбилеен сборник: 8, 13), it had also ritual (Прокопиев 2005: 145), representative, ceremonial, protocol functions (Ръцев 2013: 30–31), etc.

Along with the foundation of the Monarch’s Personal Guard, negotiations began for the need of founding the first Bulgarian Military Brass Band. Therefore, in the autumn of 1878<sup>12</sup> Knyaz Dondukov ordered an orchestra for the Bulgarian Armed Forces to be founded. The first Bulgarian Military Brass Band, whose successor is the Guards Representative Brass Band, was established to meet the needs of the newly assembled Bulgarian Army – participating in important military and civil ceremonies, traditions that are part of the state protocol of each country. Due to the lack of qualified musicians in the country, twenty Czech musicians were recruited along with their bandmaster<sup>13</sup> Josef Chochola and arrived in the city of Tarnovo,

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of the Lifeguard Uhlan Regiment.

<sup>6</sup> Decree No. 28 of August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1879 of Knyaz Alexander I Battenberg.

<sup>7</sup> Decree No. 88 of August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1887. The convoy adopted the name of Ferdinand which was depicted on a badge (Юбилеен сборник: 17).

<sup>8</sup> Reign of Knyaz Ferdinand: July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1887 – September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1908.

<sup>9</sup> After the proclamation of the Independence of the Principality of Bulgaria (September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1908), Ferdinand was proclaimed Tsar until his abdication on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1918 (Бобеџ 1992: 71).

<sup>10</sup> Reign of Tsar Boris III of Bulgaria (the Unifier) (October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1918 – August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1943)

<sup>11</sup> Reign of Tsar Simeon II (Saxe-Coburg-Gotha) (August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1943 – September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1946) After a referendum, which led to Bulgaria becoming a republic, he was forced to leave.

<sup>12</sup> In September 1878 a project agreement for hiring Czech musicians was negotiated between the Head of the Bulgarian Armed Forces – General Sheleihovski and the director of the Private Military Conservatoire in Prague – Jan Pavlis (Иванов 1979: 14).

<sup>13</sup> Bandmaster (German: *Kapellemeister*) is a German word designating a person in charge

Bulgaria on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1879. A month later, on May 19<sup>th</sup>, this band moved to the newly established capital Sofia, where it was enrolled in the First Sofia Infantry Regiment. These musicians had the honour of being the first professional musicians of the country, as well the band being the first professional musical institution in Bulgaria<sup>14</sup> (Иванов 1979: 16–17, 43; РЪЦЕВ 2013: 12–19). The Chochola bandmaster's career started as a bandmaster of the Sofia First Infantry Regiment and the Sixth Tarnovo Infantry Regiment. In 1893 he founded and conducted the Life Guard Squadron until 1904 when he retired (РЪЦЕВ 2013: 19).

The names<sup>15</sup> of the Monarch's Escort has been changed over the years, but the functions and its purpose do not. Similarly, the name changes apply to the Guards Band. Changing its name does not make any significant amendments in the Protocol. According to

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of music-making. In Bulgaria is used for a brass band conductor (Четриков 1969: 132).

<sup>14</sup> For five years it has been the only professional state orchestra in Bulgaria (Иванов 1979: 17).

<sup>15</sup> According to Order No. 168 of 1880 the Escort was renamed from "Personal Escort of the Кnyaz" (Decree No. 28 of August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1879) into "His Highness Personal Escort" (Прокопиев 2005: 18–19). By Decree No. 178 of 1891 "His Highness Personal Escort" was changed to "Lifeguard of His Royal Highness Squadron" (Юбилеен сборник 17; Прокопиев 2005: 40). By Royal Order No. 5 "Delivering Service at Royal Ceremonies and According to the State Protocol from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1892" the so-called Lifeguard Squadron was established in the capital of Bulgaria. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1893 by Decree No. 112, to the Squadron was assigned as well as the 6<sup>th</sup> Tarnovo Infantry Regiment accommodated in Sofia conducted by the bandmaster Josef Chochola. On December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1903 Knyaz Ferdinand issued Decree No. 81 renaming the Lifeguard Squadron into Regiment as from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1904. On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1908 "The Lifeguard Regiment of His Highness" was renamed "The Lifeguard Regiment of His Majesty". On October 7<sup>th</sup>, 1918 the Lifeguard Cavalry Regiment sworn allegiance to newly-crowned Tsar Boris III the Unifier (Юбилеен сборник 27, 29, 36). By Order No. 1453 of March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1937 of Head of Army, the definition "Life" was omitted and given the new name "Guard Cavalry Regiment of His Majesty". On February 26<sup>th</sup>, 1942 the structure of the Guard Cavalry Regiment was changed to "Guard Cavalry Division of His Majesty" (Прокопиев 2005: 150, 164–165). The day after the funeral of Tsar Boris III (August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1943) the guards took an oath to Simeon II. In January 1948 the Guard Cavalry Division was renamed "Division with Educational and Representative Functions". As of January 30<sup>th</sup>, 1950 was called "Guards Representative Cavalry Division". As from April 1951 was restructured as "6<sup>th</sup> Representative Cavalry Division" located in Breznik and later disbanded on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1951 (Юбилеен сборник 47, 50). As from December 1991 the Capital Military Commandant was redeployed to the present address of the Guards. By Ministerial Order No. 0017 of January 27<sup>th</sup>, 1992 it was under the Command of the Land Forces of the Bulgarian First Army, later commanded by the Chief of the Defence. By Ordinance No. 246 of September 26<sup>th</sup>, 1996 of the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria, the Capital Military Commandant was divided into two units the Representative Battalion of the Bulgarian Armed Forces and the Guards Representative Brass Band of the Ministry of Defence. By Ordinance No. 124 of May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2001 of the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria, the National Guard was established as a military unit representative of the Bulgarian Army and is a symbol of state power with the national flag, emblem and anthem. (Юбилеен сборник 56, 58).

generally accepted international and national regulations, although to a lesser extent, if any amendments were required, they would lead to the alteration in the political structure of the country, as well as the update the state protocol.

The Guards Representative Brass Band is part of the state protocol, but also participates in all celebrations, parades and receptions, i.e. its ceremonial functions and cultural activities have been widely promoted by initiating and participating in a number of cultural events at home and abroad. Since its foundation, the band has performed at concerts, numerous civic and national celebrations, theatrical performances, formal social events, etc. The orchestra also plays a musical and educational role in society – it develops the aesthetic taste of the audience by introducing the most significant works of composers of European, Slavic and of Bulgarian musical origin. As the only cultural organization at the end of the XIX century with leading position in the establishment of Bulgarian musical culture, the military bands played a central role in creating the national image of professional music in the country in the first decades of the XX century.

### **Conductor**

The conductor performs various functions and roles. He must be a good musician, interpreter, artist, educator, organizer, leader, visionary, mediator, innovator, experimenter etc. The conductor's professional performance requires a high level of education, specific detailed knowledge, good performance and technical skills, manual techniques, acute sense of hearing, interpretive skills, artistic vision and personal approach. The conductor must have an extensive and insightful knowledge of the historical periods of the orchestra, musical styles, new trends, the composers and their works. He must know the skills of the orchestral musicians in order to demonstrate his artistic mastery of interpreting and translating various musical styles and genres. By selecting the repertoire, a conductor implements pedagogical skills in the direction of developing the technical skills of musicians and soloists in the orchestra, as well as the implementation of the artistic image of the works in accordance with the style and characteristics of the era, creators and their work. He presents his own interpretive views and vision to achieve the expected artistic effect. The conductor's educational role is also relevant to the formation and development of the aesthetic tastes of the audience through the presentation of familiar and beloved works, as well as new works.

A large number of Guards conductors convey their enthusiasm, professionalism and creativity into the implementation and development of the established traditions. Some of them are Josef Chochola, Alois Matsak, Maestro Georgi Atanasov, Todor Hadzhiev, Konstantin Mihailov, Dimitar Bozhinov, Noncho Nonov, Zheko Dimov, Nikolai Bratanov, Nikolai Kazasov, Tsvetan Tsvetkov, Emil Vrachanski, Dian Dihanov, and many others along with their assistant conductors.

The current conductor of the Guards Representative Brass Band is Lieutenant Colonel Radi Radev – Chief Conductor of the Bulgarian Army and Head of the Guards Representative Brass Band. In 2004 he joined the Bulgarian Army after his success in the Competition for Orchestra Conductors as a military brass band conductor of the 9<sup>th</sup> Gorna Banya Armoured Brigade. Since 2007 he has been the Chief Conductor of the Guards Representative Brass Band. After passing the competitions in conducting and composition in 2008, he has been appointed Chief Conductor of the Bulgarian Army and Head of the Guards Representative Brass Band. Lieutenant Colonel Radi Radev was born in Dobrich. In 1991 he graduated from “Philip Kutev” Secondary Music School in Kotel specializing in playing *съдулка* (rebec). He studied at the Academy of Music and Dance Arts in Plovdiv (today called the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts “Prof. Asen Diamandiev”), majoring in conducting and composition under Assistant Professor Stefan Mutafchiev and Professor Ivan Spasov. His musical career has begun in the Thrace National Folklore Ensemble in Plovdiv (TNFE), then his work continues in the Bulgarian National Radio (BNR), for its foundation he has created about 400 pieces of music. He also worked as an assistant of chamber music in the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv. Lieutenant Colonel Radi Radev is a member of the Union of Bulgarian Composers. He is one of the few military conductors who is a member of this union. He has won numerous national and international awards in composition and conducting competitions. In 2012 he won 1<sup>st</sup> Prize at the National March Composing Competition in the name of Diko Iliev with *Богоявление* (“the Epiphany”) march composition; in 2014 – 1<sup>st</sup> Prize at the 14<sup>th</sup> International Composer Composition of Symphonies 7/8 based on Bulgarian folklore – the symphonic variation *Кирчо на къшка сидеши* (“Kircho sat out on the porch”); in 2002 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Composition Competition in the name of Ivan Spasov; in 2014 he was awarded “A Badge of Honour Golden Age of Tsar Simeon the Great” by the

Ministry of Culture; awarded “Excellent Military Service badge” – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade; in 2015 “The Order of St. Cyril and Methodius” – 1<sup>st</sup> degree of great merit in the fields of music and culture awarded by the President of the Republic of Bulgaria; in 2017 “Golden Coin” awarded by the Council of the European Scientific and Cultural Community for contribution to the development of Bulgarian culture.

His works are performed by the Bulgarian Orchestra of the National Folk Music Radio, The Mystery of Bulgarian Voices Choir, the Thrace Ensemble in Plovdiv, the Dobrudzha Ensemble in Dobrich, the Kapanese Ensemble in Razgrad. In 2014 the Dutch Military Band “KG” – the world champion in marching parade – performed Lieutenant Colonel Radev’s *Богоявление* march in the USA. He is the composer of *Искри* (“Sparks”) spectacle of the Representative Brass Band of the National Guards Unit. He was awarded with the title of Honorary Citizen of the Municipality of Tervel for his contribution to the development of Bulgarian culture and art.

The diversity of his professional and performance skills has led to the creation of numerous Bulgarian pieces of music in different genres. The accumulation of experience, knowledge and skills of an excellent folk musician, professional conductor and eminent composer along with the implementation of originality, provocation and innovation in his works, have ranked him among many contemporary artists. The Guards Band conductor’s dominant ideology is to preserve folk music traditions and transform them into modern Bulgarian classical music masterpieces by means of various compositional techniques. Lieutenant Colonel Radev, with the help of the inherited practices of the Bulgarian Military for preservation of Bulgarian national identity and development of Bulgarian musical culture along with the Representative Brass Band of the National Guards Unit repertoire, aims to reach wide audience.

### **Current Repertoire**

The ideological and moral values of every generation reflect on music. This also applies to the musical repertoire. The band’s repertoire generates its massive publicity. The Guards Band is one of the symbols of the Bulgarian state and the representative of Bulgarian national culture. Its repertoire plays an important role in determining its public image. Depending on the level of the pieces included in the orchestral repertoire, it also determines the level of the musicians’ performing skills and the conductor’s concept and vision of the

composition itself. The selection of the repertoire should also be in keeping with musical taste and expectations of the audience, the duration, the occasion and place where it will be performed. The professionalism and creative performance of the conductor are crucial for the selection and diversity of the orchestra's repertoire.

In recent years, thanks to Lieutenant Colonel Radev as a conductor and composer, the Guards Representative Brass Band repertoire includes elements based on Bulgarian folk music that are performed at concerts. Those are the *Тържественни гвардейски сигнали* ("Solemn Guard Signals"), marches including *Илинденско-Преображенски* ("Ilinden-Preobrazhenie"), *Освобождението на София* ("The Liberation of Sofia"), *Боят на Шипка* ("The Battle of Shipka Pass") and *Богоявление*. Marching songs are *Одрин 1913* ("Edirne 1913"), *Песен за безимените герои* ("Songs about the Nameless Heroes"), *В България иди!* ("Go to Bulgaria!"), *Легенда на Сирма войвода* ("The Legend for Sirma Voivode"), *Български войници* ("Bulgarian Soldiers"), *Песен за България* ("Song for Bulgaria"), *Доуран помни* ("Douran Remembers"), *От векове* ("Since Centuries"), *Български гвардейци* ("Bulgarian Guards"). *На Дунава* ("On the Danube River") is a xylophone and brass band accompaniment. Arrangements of folk music by Lieutenant Colonel Radi Radev are *Северняшки абдай* ("Northern Abdi Round Dance") music and instrumental solo accompaniment by Yordan Yonchev – Gumzata, *Русенско дайчово хоро* ("Daychov Round Dance in Ruse") – music by Georgi Parvanov, *Чичовата* ("The Uncle's") – music by Georgi Andreev, *Право чирпанско хоро* ("Chirpan Straight Dance") – performed by the Brass Band and "Kanarite" Band, *Фолклорна пиеса за акордеон и духов оркестър* ("Folk Music Instrumental Piece Performed by Accordion and Wind Band") – music and soloist Petar Ralchev. A musical piece *Българският ден* ("The Bulgarian Day") – music by Alexander Brazitsov, arranged by Lieutenant Colonel Radi Radev. Vocal melody and instrumental solo accompaniments by wind orchestra – *Брала мома ружа цвете* ("A Maiden Was Picking Up Rose Flowers"), *Девойко, мари хубава* ("Beautiful Lady"), *Куне ле* ("Little Kune"), *Море пиле, славей пиле* ("Dear Nightingale"), *Излел е Дельо хайдутин* ("Delyo Has Become a Freedom Fighter"), *Песен на Райна Княгиня* ("Song for Queen Rayna"). *Посеяла е баба леща* ("Grandmother Has Planted Lentil") is composed for a child folk soloist, a chamber percussion ensemble and wind orchestra. *Гюргя пере на реката* ("Gyurgya Is Washing in the River") is composed for male vocal soloist, female

folk choir and brass band. *Две тракийски песни* (“Two Thracian Songs”) is for female quartet with brass band accompaniment. *Българка* (“Bulgarian Woman”) – a symphonic suite for soloists e.g. singers from the Rhodopes and Strandzha, opera singers, mixed choirs, wind and symphony orchestras and *Странджа* (“Strandzha Mountain”) symphonic melody etc.

The composition of the pieces of music, based on folklore which depicts its traditional character, is influenced by the metrorhythmical diversity, specific intonation, intermingling melodic fragments and motifs, regionally kept stylistic elements like ornament, texture, tempo etc., editing, arranging and orchestration techniques, the authentic music composition, reminisced the folk music.

### **Mission**

The Guards Brass Band has a vital role in concert and ceremonial performances, in national and international music festivals’ participations and in recognition of the Bulgarian state and army. According to the current Charter that mission is assigned to the Representative Brass Band of the National Guards Unit<sup>16</sup>. To accomplish this mission, the conductor is obliged to ensure a high artistic level of orchestral performance and repertoire<sup>17</sup>. According to a special section in the Regulations of the Brass Band management, dedicated to the Central Brass Band and its successor the Guards Band, specifies that the main responsibilities of the band are the promotion of the concert performances and participation in ceremonial events of national and state significance, along with its protocols and representative functions (Art. 24, Letter B; Art. 35, Letter B and C). In particular, the required number of concerts are also specified – seasonally, monthly and weekly performed (Art. 24, Letter G).

The understanding of the Representative Brass Band of the National Guards Unit mission, according to its conductor Lieutenant Colonel Radev, is as follows: “The Guards Band and its repertoire should be very closely associated with the Bulgarian musical culture and traditional folklore. Through preservation, implementation and dissemination of our ancient traditions of Bulgarian folklore,

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<sup>16</sup> Rules of Structure, Organization and Procedure of the National Guards Unit enacted by Ordinance No. 260 of November 2nd, 2009 of the Council of Ministries of Bulgaria, art. 18, par. 2.

<sup>17</sup> Rules of Service of the Brass Bands in the National Bulgarian Army entered into force in 1974, enacted by Order No 163 of November 5th, 1973 the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria, art. 13, Letter I and M..

Bulgarians should continue preserving and promoting our cultural and spiritual identity around the world”. The comprehensive and diverse vision for implementing this mission is developed in several creative projects with its experimental and innovative characteristics. These projects merge the gap between generations, traditional folk music vs contemporary music, the village lifestyle vs the city lifestyle, outdoor rural performance vs stage performance, the past vs the present, as a whole they are fully focused on the future of reflecting and preserving fundamental moral values, beliefs, knowledge and musical heritage. Through the wide range of Bulgarian pieces of music in the Representative Brass Band of the National Guards Unit repertoire, its vigorous cultural activity across the country, the contribution to the development of musical life and preservation of Bulgarian identity, has been assigned as a cultural institution of national significance. Considering the performance of the Representative Brass Band of the National Guards Unit as a unique cultural phenomenon, it applies pre-modern rural folk music into various applications and modernization of urban music. It also has a vital and pro-active role in participating in ceremonial events and cultural ceremonies of national and international significance.

### **Recent Stage Performances**

The Concerts of the Guards Band are held indoors and outdoors.

Indoors, the band performs in the largest national and European concert halls. In Bulgaria it performs in Sofia at the National Palace of Culture (NPC), “Bulgaria” concert hall, “Sofia” concert hall, “Arena Armeec Sofia“; in Plovdiv at the “Colodrum” concert hall, at the concert hall of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, also on stages in Shumen, Kotel etc. Since 2008 the band performs at many International Music Parades in the following places with large number of spectators: in Germany at Köln Lanxess Arena (19000), Berlin O2 World (8000), Dresden Margon-Arena (3000), Frankfurt/Main Festhalle (4500), Erfurt Messehalle (4500), Hamburg O2 World Hamburg “Colour” (17000), Magdeburg Getec Arena (5000), Oberhausen König-Pilsener-Arena (6000), Braunschweig Volkswagen Halle (4500), Dortmund Westfalenhalle I (4000), Würzburg s.Oliver Arena (4000), Kempten bigBOX Allgäu (4000), Berlin – Max-Schmelling-Halle (6000), Leipzig Arena (5000), Nürnberg Frankenhalle (4000); in the biggest sport halls of Oostende and Lommel in Belgium; at the National Theatre of Sarajevo in

Bosnia and Herzegovina; at the sport hall of Brăila in Romania; at the Frederic R. Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, Israel. In 2009, Lieutenant Colonel Radev orchestrated the Guards Representative Brass Band at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Wind Orchestras from all over the world in front of 10000 spectators at Ledovaya Arena in Saint Petersburg, Russia. From 2014 to 2016, as a chief director of the International Wind Orchestra Parades, he performed in “Arena Armeec Sofia“, Bulgaria. The majority of the pieces of music performed at the parades are composed by Lieutenant Colonel Radev.

Outdoors, the orchestra has repeatedly performed in Sofia on the square in front of the Ivan Vazov National Theatre, on stage in the Borisov Garden, on the square in front of the National Palace of Culture, on the Knyaz Alexander I Square in Sofia, as well as on the squares of many other regional cities and municipal centres. Typically, the Guards Band performs at the parade marches (defiles)<sup>18</sup>. Those usually are orchestrated abroad – in Denmark at the Festival of Wind Orchestras in Sønderborg, in St. Petersburg at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Wind Orchestras from all over the world; in Bulgaria they are in Sofia, Veliko Tarnovo, Plovdiv, Burgas, Pleven, Vratsa, Montana, Vidin, Chiprovtsi, Shumen, Stara Zagora, Nova Zagora, Blagoevgrad, Kotel, Troyan, Samokov, Balchik, Pavlikeni, Svoge, Pernik and many others.

The remarkable stage performance of the Guards Orchestra, the aroused interest of the audience, along with the diverse repertoire, updated concert program, the high level of composition applied by the conductor’s originality, as well as the inclusion of other contemporary pieces, has been focused by the Bulgarian media which broadcasts the ceremonial and traditional events in which the Guards Representative Brass Band participates.

### **Recent Media Appearances**

The mass media has an indisputable role and influence on society. Its function in the field of culture is, on the one hand an intermediary between culture and society, promoting cultural events and pieces of music to the audience and on the other hand it becomes a cultural institution that produces culture. The mass media holds the viewer’s interest. It can also have the role in maintaining and shaping modern

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<sup>18</sup> Large outdoor public procession including a performance of a marching military brass band along streets, boulevards or squares.

public philosophy. By means of the media, the ceremonial and concert performances of the Guards Orchestra could reach large audience. Thus, the orchestra's achievements due to the artistry, professionalism and aesthetic qualities of the performers, are disseminated and easily recognized by the audience. The Representative Brass Band of the National Guards Unit is constantly and systematically broadcasted by the national and international media.

The Bulgarian National Television, the Military TV channel and "Planeta" TV have broadcasted the concerts of the Guards Band performances on March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Bulgaria's Liberation Day; May 6<sup>th</sup> – the Day of Valour and Bulgarian Army, as well as at the International Marching Parades of Wind Orchestras (2014–2016) in "Arena Armeec Sofia"; on July 12<sup>th</sup> – The Day of the National Bulgarian Guards Unit; 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bulgarian Red Cross; 170 years since the birth of Ivan Vazov, last but not least the Christmas concerts in "Bulgaria" concert hall every year since 2013. These concerts were featured by the implementation of folk music motifs and intonations into the pieces performed: marches and marching songs as *Богоявление*; *Български войници*, *Песен за България*, *Освобождението на София*, *Илинденско-Преображенски*, *Легенда на Сирма войвода*, *Дойран помни*, *В България иди!*, *Одрин 1913*, *От векове*, *Български гвардейци*; *хора* (round dances) – *Дунавско хоро* ("Danubian Round Dance"), *Билка* ("Herb"), *Северняшки абдай*, *Фолклорна пиеса за акордеон и духов оркестър*; songs – *Брала мома ружа цвете*, *Излез е Дельо хайдутин*, *Песен на Райна Княгиня*, *Куне ле*, *Две тракийски песни*, *Девойко, мари хубава*, *Море пиле, славей пиле*, *Посеяла е баба леща*; plays – *Пиринска рапсодия* ("Pirin rhapsody"), *"Хоп-троп"* ("Hop and Dance"), *Българският ден*, *От Карнобат до Тропикана* ("From Karnobat to Tropicana"); symphonic works – *Нестинарско хоро* ("Fire Dancing"), *Ръченица* ("Traditional Bulgarian Dance") from *Тракийски танци* ("Thracian Dances"), *Българи от старо време* ("Old Time's Bulgarians") operetta performed by the duo of Yanka and Ivan, *Севдана* ("Sevdana Girl"), the symphonic suites *Българка* and *Странджа*. Other media like BTV, Nova TV, Planeta TV and Evrocom also broadcasted the ceremonial events of national and state significance.

In the first half of 2018 the Guards Brass Band participated in the ceremony dedicated to the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the pieces *Пиринска рапсодия* and *Чичовата* were aired online by the National television of Bosnia

and Herzegovina. In 2009 the spectacle *Искри* was broadcasted live in the 13<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Wind Orchestras from all over the world in Saint Petersburg by the Russian television.

Reportages of the Guards Orchestra's performances of *Нестинарско хоро*, *Дунавско хоро*, *Билка*, *Пролетни мечти* ("Dreams of Spring"), *Брала мома ружа цвете*, *Девойко*, *мари хубава*, *Море пиле*, *славей пиле*, *Куне ле*, *Хоп-трон* were also broadcasted on national televisions in Germany (2008–2018), Israel (2010), Belgium (2017); Romania (2017), Denmark (2019).

The recorded marching songs "Honor and Glory to Motherland" and "Dignity, Duty and Valour" are played by the Bulgarian National Radio and Darik Radio. There are many articles about the Guards Representative Brass Band published in local newspapers such as *Bulgarian Army*, *24 Hours* and *Old Age Pensioner* etc. The orchestra's activities are broadcast on social media. All the recordings of the Guards Representative Brass Band can be heard and seen on YouTube.

## Conclusion

At the beginning of the XX century, the globalization, urbanization and modernization result in a higher alienation towards society and established cultural traditions. The consequences of alienation have accelerated too. Through the current ceremonial and concert activities the Representative Brass Band of the National Guards Unit, has managed to preserve the past and embrace the future. For about ten years, the members of the Orchestra made a significant improvement in creating and enriching the repertoire with folk music and works based on folklore. It is also an active intermediary between the folklore and urban society. At the beginning of the new millennium to the Guards Orchestra and its conductor was assigned a responsible and challenging task which was successfully accomplished by the consistency and implementation of their mission into the future. Thanks to the professionalism, artistry and compositional creativity of the conductor, along with his trust in cultural and spiritual significance of Bulgarian folklore, it was possible to maintain folklore vitality by including it into the composed artistic pieces of music. The musicians also play a vital role in the orchestra with their performance, technical and interpretive skills to embody the new compositions of the repertoire. The cooperation between the conductor-composer and the orchestra is the key of success of the Representative Brass Band

of the National Guards Unit and acts as an intermediary between the folklore and modern society.

Number of Orchestra's annual performances varies from 280 to 310 per year. Most of them are official and representative, related to military activities and celebrations of national holidays and other public holidays of the Republic of Bulgaria. According to planned events in the State Protocol, the Guard Orchestra is also entrusted with significant celebrations in the capital city. This is the Day of Saint Sophia, Faith, Hope and Love – the Day of Sofia – the Capital City – September 17<sup>th</sup>, the Memorial Day in Honour of the Apostle of Freedom Vassil Levski – February 19<sup>th</sup>, the Day of Slavonic Alphabet, Bulgarian Enlightenment and Culture – May 24<sup>th</sup>, the Day of Revolutionary, Poet and Rebel Hristo Botev and all who have sacrificed their lives for the liberation of Bulgaria – June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Independence Day of Bulgaria – September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the National Enlighteners' Day – November 1<sup>st</sup> etc. The orchestra also participates in celebrations of national and local importance in the municipal and regional areas of the country. In the majority of its performances, the musical works based on Bulgarian folk music are represented as traditional, contemporary and original. In its versatile and overly intensive professional activities and the inclusion and renewal of folklore, the Guards Orchestra imposes a development of the urban musical culture which converts it into an engine of modernization and an intermediary between the past and future by virtue of its current missionary activities.

Not only is the Guards Orchestra's legally designated status, but also the one designated by the society, provides it with a place of a unique cultural institution in the country with extremely active professional institutional and civic activities. Undeniably, it has made a significant contribution to the modern Bulgarian musical culture. Representative Brass Band of the National Guards Unit identifies and confirms the new trends in the cultural life, in terms of high professional standards, a diverse and constantly expanded repertoire and creativity that are highly valued by the Bulgarian society and musical elite.

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РЕПРЕЗЕНТАТИВНИ ГАРДИЈСКИ ДУВАЧКИ ОРКЕСТАР  
РЕПУБЛИКЕ БУГАРСКЕ: САВРЕМЕНИ МЕДИЈАТОР  
ИЗМЕЂУ ГРАДА И ФОЛКЛОРА

Резиме

Прилог разматра улогу Репрезентативног гардијског дувачког оркестра Републике Бугарске као медијатора фолклора на његовом путу до градске музичке сцене почетком 21. века. Гардијски оркестар има две основне функције – церемонијалну и концертну. Предмет истраживања је његова концертна делатност. По први пут се проучавају искуство, репертоар, сценска и медијска реализација фолклора у концертној активности Репрезентативног гардијског дувачког оркестра у градској културној средини – националној и европској. Током истраживања реализовани су следећи задаци који одређују и структуру рада: Репрезентативни гардијски дувачки оркестар – његова намена и место у културном животу; диригент – професионални облик; репертоар – место фолклора у њему; мисија – стваралачка визија и стваралачки пројекти; сцена – национално и европско искуство; медији – продукција концерата и шоу спектакли. Акцент је стављен на критички оријентисана питања везана уз личност диригента, који се труди да Гардијски оркестар обликује, осим као церемонијалан, и као концертни састав; као и успешним музичким пројектима оркестра који се заснивају на фолклору, реализованим као сценски и медијски производ.

**Кључне речи:** музика, оркестар гарде, диригент, фолклор, сценски наступи, медији.