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DISCOVER THE REMARKABLE LEGACY OF UKRAINE'S MUSICAL MAESTRO, VIKTOR KOSENKO, WHOSE GENIUS HAS GREATLY ENRICHED NATIONAL VOCAL HERITAGE

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The purpose of this article is to delve into the distinctive stylistic elements that define the romances of V. Kosenko. It is crucial to note that Kosenko's unique stylistic characteristics primarily came to the fore during the nascent stages of Ukrainian music culture. Viktor Kosenko was a distinguished Ukrainian composer and pianist in the early 20th century. His musical legacy includes around 250 compositions, among which are about 100 piano pieces, violin and piano concertos, trios, string quartets, numerous ballads, choral and folk arrangements, 24 pieces for children, and a rich variety of art songs.

In 1929, Kosenko joined the Lysenko Music and Drama Institute in Kyiv as a chamber musician and music analyst, and by 1932, he had been promoted to professor. From 1934 to 1937, he taught at the Kyiv Conservatory. From the mid-20th century onward, the study of the unique aspects of Ukrainian modernism and the identification of the essential stylistic foundations of chamber-vocal music have enabled Victor Kosenko to profoundly explore the artist's chamber and vocal works. His research does not only concentrate on their stylistic features, which are pivotal in understanding the composer's musical contributions, but also on the critical assessment of these works by musicologists, highlighting the most significant and distinctive compositions. Notable examples include «Human Tears,» «I Want a Voiceless Silence,» «Singing Winter,» «Night and Storm,» and «Whenever You Could,» which are among his most exquisite lyrical songs.

Viktor Stepanovich Kosenko's creative heritage spans a broad spectrum of imagery and genres, from elegant vocal and piano compositions to majestic symphonic works. Nonetheless, in the annals of Ukrainian Soviet music, the composer is celebrated for his deeply emotional lyricism. He is rightly considered one of the trailblazers of the Ukrainian solo singing genre. Each of Kosenko's romances tells a poignant and intimate story of a person's most cherished emotions.

The maestro himself emphasized the profound psychological depth of his musical creations, stating, «I view my compositions as a mirror to the innermost spiritual experiences, transcending mere decorative frills.» The scholarly underpinnings of this musical exploration were laid by distinguished theorists and musicologists like B. Filts, M. Grinchenko, T. Bulat, and Y. Malyshev, who delved into the myriad dimensions of V. Kosenko's vocal masterpieces in their academic inquiries.

The evolution of chamber and vocal music can be segmented into two pivotal eras: the period preceding the 1920s and the era following the 1920s. During this transformative time, Victor Kosenko played a pivotal role. The researcher delineates the innovative trajectory of Kosenko's chamber and vocal works into two phases: the first phase initiates in the early 1920s, while the second phase commences in the late 1920s and continues until his untimely demise in 1938. This period of transition is characterized by a shift in the composer's thematic focus from symbolist poetry to the imagery of everyday life, reflecting a maturation towards realistic principles. Moreover, there is a discernible shift in the musical narrative from introspective and sublime expressions to those that are vibrant and grounded in reality. Kosenko's romances, such as «When You Could,» «No Response,» «No Words,» «I'm Sad,» and «I Was Waiting for You,» encapsulate a rich tapestry of emotional hues, spanning from fervent outbursts and deep dramatic intensity to the poignant whispers of sorrow. Regarding the solo piece «Whenever You Could,» it is observed that it exemplifies a superior musical structure, with harmonic progressions that resonate with the traditions

of 19th-century music. The exceptional musical prowess of the composer and pianist not only enriched the cultural landscape of a humble provincial town but also brought it to life. Beyond his performances with a musical trio, Kosenko regularly hosted literary and musical soirees at his home, which became a beloved fixture within the local community. Esteemed musicians, including the violinist and conductor David Oistrakh, as well as the singers Zoya Gaidai and Ivan Patorzhynsky, graced these home salons with their presence and performed vocal chamber music.

At the dawn of the new century, Ukrainian composers, inspired by a rekindled interest, embarked on an exploration of this genre. The vocal miniatures of this period became more intellectually stimulating and philosophically deep, while concurrently toning down their lyrical sociability and connection to everyday musical practices. The symbolic essence of modern aesthetics encouraged a departure from ornate formal-dramaturgical constructs, leading to a revival of the noble simplicity in vocal music through the adoption of «unpretentious» song forms.

V. Kosenko's vocal lyrics stand out prominently among works such as «Willows,» «The Nightingale and the Rose,» «Ukrainian Folk Song,» «The Mighty Dnieper Roars and Bellows,» «Oh, I will Go Above the Meadow,» «Hey, in Our Village,» and «Oh, there is always fog in the Mountain.» Kosenko himself recognized the unique psychological dimensions of his music, stating, «I perceive my music as a manifestation of spiritual experiences, rather than mere decorative trimmings.» Viktor Kosenko's music has become an «emblazoned symbol» of modern Ukrainian music, with his influence discernible at various «levels» of his creative process, from thematic selection to the precise methods of musical expression, including coloristic harmony and distinctive intonations.

Viktor Stepanovych Kosenko is celebrated in the annals of Ukrainian music for his creation of lyrical compositions. His extensive works for voice, chamber ensembles, and orchestra are imbued with the romantic melodies characteristic of Slavic music and traditional folk songs. Kosenko conducted an exhaustive study of folk melodies, dedicating himself to the comprehensive collection and harmonization of these tunes.

The Ukrainian genius, Viktor Kosenko, aspired to encapsulate the vibrant imagery and profound social resonances embedded in the historical evolution of Ukrainian national music.