The artistic traditions of the sonnet genre go back centuries and have been cultivated for eight centuries. Only during the Renaissance about three hundred thousand sonnets were written! Therefore, we can assume that nowadays the number of original and translated works of this genre has already surpassed a million. So, now we are talking about a certain universality of the sonnet and its amazing durability in the artistic space.

The last two centuries have seen the integration of the sonnet into the art of music. The diversity of connections between verbal and musical texts is best represented by the vocal-instrumental music of the XX-XXI centuries. Ukrainian Sonnetiana demonstrates single authorial appeals (B. Lyatoshynky, V. Barvinsky, F. Nadenenko, V. Zolotukhin, Y. Meitus, G. Maiboroda, D. Klebanov, M. Volynsky, V. Antonyuk, E. Marchuk, Karel Vik), as well as the obvious commitment of composers to this genre. The unequivocal leader in this course was and remains Mykola Dremlyuga, who created a wide musical palette of sonnets by F. Petrarch, W. Shakespeare, A. Mickiewicz, W. Saussura, M. Rylyk, P. Ronsard, I. Franko, L. Vysheslavsky, Dm. Pavlychko and others. Some Ukrainian composers also mastered this complex honed genre, creating whole chamber cycles from Ukrainian and world sonnet poetry, such as "Sonnets of Dnipro" by P. Haydamaka (on the poems by D. Lutsenko); "Crimean sonnets" by G. Uspensky (on the poems of A. Mickiewicz); "Spring Sonnets" by M. Malovich (on the poems of B. Hrinchenko); "12 sonnets of Shakespeare for bass and piano" by O. Yakovchuk; "Autumn Sonnets" by V. Hubarenko (on the poem by Dm. Pavlychko); "Sonnets" by Y. Ishchenko (on the poems of P. Ronsard), etc.

Ukrainian composers give preference to Shakespeare's work. The sonnets of the great playwright attract the attention of artists with their various translations and philosophical comprehension of "eternal themes". It combines the historical and cultural boundaries of the existence of this elite genre. Musical compositions based on Shakespeare's poems were written by A. Kos-Anatolsky, M. Zavalishina, B. Buevsky, A. Vinokur, O. Bezborodko, G. Sasko, N. Boeva and others.

The appeal of composers to the works of Lesya Ukrainka, consistent with their feelings, moods and dreams of today, is worth noting as well. Thus, in the harmonious form of the poem "Seven Strings" the author places her sonnet in the
middle of the cycle, emphasizing the driving force of the creative imagination and the discovery of the "world of golden dreams" using your fantasy. This world of dreams gently touches the deepest poetic strings of the souls of Ukrainian composers J. Yatsynevych, S. Spekh, I. Polsky, E. Vakhnyak, T. Sidorenko-Malyukova, O. Kozarenko.

Despite the sound and form organization, the sonnet word demonstrates a new coverage of its expressive possibilities. Its semantic field expands, poetic (euphony, eurhythm, rhythmics) and musical (melody, intonation, rhythm, timbre) components are intertwined, complementing each other and turning into a dialogue of arts, cultures, styles and personalities. At the same time, sonnet antinomy is clamped in a strophic "corset", encourages composers to experiment with form and potentiates many authorial frames of musical thoughts, which are characterized by a heightened sense of creative freedom.

Due to the special relationship between the poetic structure of the sonnet genre and the organization of musical material, the individual form of solo singing differs: two-part, three-part or the one in which music unfolds freely in time. Instrumental introductions, endings or internal transitions also vary in lengths of time and dramatic significance.

Musical sonnets differ in chamber or symphonic expression (V. Barvinsky and O. Bezborodko have translations of their vocal-instrumental sonnets for symphony orchestra).

A significant feature of the music of the XX-XXI century is the attraction of Ukrainian composers to this poetic form. Written works for choir, voice and piano, one or more voices and orchestra, trio for voice, violin and piano, voice, cello and piano, voice, tambourine and piano, etc.

Nowadays, in the musical art of Ukraine a new direction develops that contains a unique expression of sonnet with composed music. In spite of being poorly studied, it still seems as a promising genre of musical sonnet, which is worthy of further research.

References: