

The contemporary cultural environment offers new performance contexts to the *zurnaci-tapançi* ensembles. Their music is desacralized, but keeps on functioning with its attractiveness of entertainment of the present day festivity. The new contexts change the very music as well. The technical virtuosity and flashing individual styles of the musicians are encouraged. On the other hand the novel, fashionable, surprising is praised higher than their loyalty of the tradition. The stage changes the structure of *zurnaci* music. The musicians subordinate their performance to the choreographic decisions. There has also occurred a musical thinking and verbalization of the music which is very untypical of the tradition. The *zurnaci* Selim says: "This is *Körolu* it goes about 36 *tacts*". His explanation reveals the determination of *zurnaci* music as a function of the stage dance, its structuring in accordance with the duration and dramaturgy of the dance. The *zurnaci* music recorded in different formats is also different from the traditional structure. Against the temporally unlimited music motifs and larger forms repeated many times, varied and improvised, the present day imposes reduction of the music in time and its structures. The typically traditional proceeding – unlimited combination, recombination and varying of different music constructions – resembling potpourri (bouquet) in some cases is replaced by certain pieces limited in time. The preference falls upon the separate flower not upon the bouquet. Therefore recoding it Shein turns the dance music of *Eski magusar* into a concert piece; while his nephew like Ivo Papazov plays the dance melodies in such fast tempos that can not be dances.

¹ The tradition in most Bulgarian regions is to have your Godfather (krastnik) as a witness (*koum*) at the wedding.

² These are again Dasikane Roma (Christians) but speaking Roma language.

³ Gotse Delchev is a national hero who fought for the independence of Macedonian territories which remained under Ottoman reign till 1912, due to the annulment of the Contract from San Stefano.

⁴ The melody from the soundtrack to the Indian film from the early 1970s having the same title.

⁵ TSUM – The Central Department Store in Sofia.

⁶ *Cypsa* – the name of the New Year ritual comes from the adjective "cypoa" (row) after the fresh *kisil* (the tree that comes in blossom first and whose fruit ripens last) branch used by those participating in the ritual to beat for good health the backs of everybody. The branch row or richly decorated is called "surovaknitsa".

⁷ Bay – an addressing to an older man as a form of respect which is very typical for the Oriental kinship terminology.

⁸ Komita – leader of a military group that fought against the Turks for the liberation of Macedonia.

⁹ Very big bells with a nice voice.

¹⁰ The name of Razlog before 1932 when most of the Turkish place names were replaced by Bulgarian ones.

¹¹ Today they are Greek territory.

¹² Kurban < Turkish – sacrifice. Usually a lamb (or a ram) is sacrificed when the parish celebrates the patron of the church. A special dish (*Kurban*) of the boiled ram and lots of vegetables lavishly spiced is served to everybody present.

¹³ According to the Orthodox Christian tradition many people celebrate their namedays, i.e. the Day of the Saint whom they have been called after.

¹⁴ Fine cotton cloth in many colours

¹⁵ The musicians explain the word like "The religious sang by the *hodzha*".

¹⁶ Village gathering on the day of the patron saint of the local church.

¹⁷ The Prime Minister of Bulgaria 1997-2001.

¹⁸ The President of Bulgaria 1997-2002.

¹⁹ A plane taking famous Bulgarian artists on a tournament abroad crashed at the Sofia airport. Pasha Christova was a very promising pop singer. Some of the passengers survived.