

Čiurlionis' Aesthetics: Connections with the Non-Classical, Symbolism and Leonardo da Vinci of Philosophy of Art

Summary

The article provides a comprehensive analysis of factors and ideas that had an impact on Čiurlionis' aesthetic peculiarity. It treats the Lithuanian artist as a representative of theoretical aesthetics, or "aesthetics from below". Aesthetic ideas developed in his letters and articles generally derive from a theoretical comprehension of issues related to harmony, the process of artistic creativity, and the interrelationship between painting and music that excited him throughout various phases of his creative evolution.

In an attempt to reconstruct the totality of Čiurlionis's aesthetic approaches, we will focus on his relationship with the romantic, not classical, symbolist and Leonardo da Vinci aesthetic ideas that were prevalent in his living environment. We will discuss, in various aspects, the characteristic views of Čiurlionis's aesthetics that emerged from the influence of these ideas, such as his attitudes towards art as a refuge of the highest spiritual values, the artist's mission, the elevation of music in the hierarchy of the arts, the attitudes towards nature, the interaction between painting and music, the process of

artistic creation, and other aesthetic and psychological ideas of the artistic creative processes that excited him most.

In accordance with the representatives of romantic and symbolist aesthetics Čiurlionis was convinced that only authentic spiritual art can unravel the mysteries inherent in objects and life's phenomena. According to symbolists, the most important task of art is to reveal the invisible connections between man and the world around him, and the best tool for this is the symbol, which is metaphorical, profound, and has exceptional generalizing power. Therefore, distancing himself from the vulgar, soulless, materialised, bourgeois world, Čiurlionis penetrated into the infinite spaces of the spiritual world, moved away from the gloomy daily life to the world of fantastic visions and dreams, sought to ascend the realm of the eternal goodness and beauty, and created worlds illuminated by the radiant sunshine and the night sky, the moonlight and the swarms of stars, which were inexistent in reality but created by his vivid imagination.

Keywords: Čiurlionis, aesthetics, philosophy of art, art, romanticism, non-classical philosophy of art, neoromanticism, symbolism, Leonardo da Vinci, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Baudelaire, Verlaine, synesthesia, symbol.