

Andrey Andreev:
“Chronicle of Sofia Philharmonic”

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The “Chronicle of Sofia Philharmonic” (in three books: 1893 – 1926, 1926 – 1938, 1939 – 1946) is a fundamental edition both in content and in scope. Its author and compiler, the music historian Andrey Avramov Andreev, PhD, has studied and published thousands of materials from a wide range of archival collections, as well as musical and cultural periodicals of the time, and he has also printed publications concerning the musical life of the capital. They encompass information and interpretations – scientific, memoir, documentary, etc. – that have circulated in academic literature to date, with extensive commentary provided by the author. In the expanded analytical introductions to the three volumes, he outlines the materials contained in each. This edition aims to establish the beginning of the history of the Sofia Philharmonic (the successor to the Royal Military Symphony Orchestra), which is institutionally connected with the Royal Guards Orchestra – a link that has been thoroughly documented. Thus, the chronicle of the Philharmonic began in 1893 (until now 1928 – the year of the formation of the Academic Symphony Orchestra – was considered to be its starting point). This fact, along with other important clarifications, necessitates a re-evaluation of established notions about our musical past. The thousands of published texts contain the names of all conductors, Bulgarian and guest performers alike, as well as those of orchestra players from various ensembles from the capital, in addition to repertoire titles and authors of various informative and review-based responses. Particularly noteworthy are the materials related to the artistic biography of the remarkable figure of Sasha Popov as a performer, conductor, and organizer. The Chronicle presents a rich picture of the musical and cultural history in the capital from the end of the 19th to the middle of the 20th century.

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