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SOUND AS A LANGUAGE OF RESISTANCE: UKRAINIAN BALLET IN TIMES OF WAR[1]

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Abstract. *This article examines the role of sound as a language of cultural resistance in Ukrainian ballet during the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war. While ballet is traditionally characterized as an apolitical art form rooted in classical European aesthetics, the wartime context has transformed it into a medium through which Ukrainian artists articulate national identity, collective trauma and resilience. The study argues that the works by Ukrainian composers has become central to the decolonization of Ukrainian ballet. Drawing on perspectives from musicology, dance studies, cultural nationalism and warfare theory, the article demonstrates how music functions semantically, emotionally and diplomatically within contemporary Ukrainian ballet. The ballet music conveys narratives of suffering and resilience, enables communal mourning, supports psychological endurance and communicates Ukrainian cultural sovereignty to international audiences.*

Keywords: *Ukrainian ballet, wartime culture, Ukrainian composers, Russo-Ukrainian war.*

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