“The Humpbacked Horse”: an actual comic extravaganza

Summary

The article is devoted to the problem of interpretation of the comic in music, the author makes an attempt to answer the question: how is the comic arranged and read in Shchedrin’s ballet The Humpbacked Horse? The analysis is carried out in three methodological aspects: the context that reveals non-obvious details, situations that ensure the implementation of the comic, and associations that allow to determine its genre specifics. In the process of analyzing these aspects, it turns out that the comic is mainly contained in extra-musical phenomena: in the verbal plot, in the pantomime illustrating it. The musical component embodies the idea of the French theatrical genre — extravaganza (féerie).

Keywords: R. Shchedrin, P. Ershov, The Humpbacked Horse, ballet, comic.