

OPINION

by **Prof. Dr. Gheorgji Asenov Arnaoudov**, Lecturer at New Bulgarian University,
professional field 8.3. Music and Dance Art",
for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"
in the professional field 8.3 "Music and Dance Art"
by the candidate **Ardiana Bytyqi-Ismajli**

The present dissertation of Ardiana Bytyqi-Ismajli on the topic of
" Interpretative Problems in the Lyrics of the Songs by Johannes Brahms – word and tone"
is developed within a single volume of 102 pages which contain an Introduction, three parts (no
chapters are indicated in the text): **1.** Life and work of Johannes Brahms, **2.** Discussion, **3.** Some
interpretative views on Brahms' "Zigeunerlieder op.103", Conclusion, Contributions, Publications
related to the dissertation. The dissertation presents 14 music examples. The total number of cited
sources is 72.

At the beginning I should evaluate the importance of the research problem in scientific and
applied terms. And here, I should clearly state that the issues so posed, the research problem is
substantive and significant and as developed makes a significant contribution not only to music
studies but also in terms of its usefulness to any singer-performer.

The text of this dissertation is based on research and analyses of various interpretations of
Brahms' vocal works, examined in various performances by well-known, world-renowned singers.
It concerns the important role of the text in the composer's oeuvre and hence the knowledge of
the language and specificity of the poetic text - a serious basis for the elaboration of the overall
compositional structure of individual works.

A number of interpretative issues in the composer's solo songs are explored, with a major
focus on the significance of the original poetic text and its particular importance in the
construction of musical structures and forms. A detailed analysis of performances of the Lieder
"Liebestreu", "Immer leiser wird mein Schlummer" and "Sapphische Ode", and "Zigeunerlieder
op. 103" is carried out, the focus of the study being on the articulation of the text, problems of
agogic and articulation. Important elements of language are highlighted which are of particular

importance to the performer, and hence its importance in the construction of the overall world of each work.

The contributions of the dissertation are also formulated in a very lucid, clear and precise manner and are a vivid proof that Ardiana Bytyqi-Ismajli possesses a thorough theoretical knowledge and excellent practical skills. They relate to the fact that an attempt has been made to investigate difficulties and performing problems in the interpretation of Brahms's songs from the perspective of a singer-soloist whose native language is not German, and approaches and models for overcoming these difficulties have been proposed; an in-depth comparative analysis is made between various native German-speaking performers and singers whose native language is not German; the author's valuable insights into the interpretation of some Brahms' songs are presented, based on her own experience as a concert singer and interpreter. Thus, the writing and presentation of the dissertation text enables other non-German-speaking singers to overcome some of the challenges in performing songs by the great German composer Johannes Brahms.

The text of Ardiana Bytyqi-Ismajli's dissertation is based on citations and references to a representative number of authors, with a total of 72 titles listed in the text. All of these publications are quoted very correctly and accurately in the body of the dissertation text. I do not find a specifically referenced Bibliography in the dissertation submitted for my consideration. Moreover, there are images of 14 musical examples of the works under consideration, which give clarity and lucidity to the entire text.

Two publications closely related to the topic are presented with the text:

1. Bytyqi, Ardiana, *Sapphische Ode*. In *Young Scientific Music and Dance Forum*, Sofia, NBU, 01/2021.
2. Bytyqi, Ardiana, *The Influence of Johannes Brahms on Romantic Music*. In *Young Scientific Music and Dance Forum*, Sofia, NBU, 10/2022.

Both publications are in a journal, which is included in the national reference list of contemporary Bulgarian peer-reviewed scientific publications and meet the requirements of indicator D9. Articles and reports published in specialized periodicals in the field of arts from the Regulations for the Application of the Law on the Arts.

I am fully and thoroughly familiar with the abstract submitted, which contains 23 pages and presents the main points of the dissertation text very correctly, accurately and clearly, and in a

significant amount of space.

I do not know the doctoral candidate personally and have not attended her concert performances. I accept in full the contributions listed by Ardiana Bytyqi-Ismajli, and on the basis of the above I take the liberty to rate highly and with dignity the entire practical and artistic activity of the PhD candidate as well as her meticulous research work on the writing of the dissertation text. I would also like to congratulate her supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ermila Schweizer, for her assistance. I would hereby like to propose to the esteemed Scientific Panel to award Ardiana Bytyqi-Ismajli the degree of **Doctor of Education and Science** in the specialty 8.3 Music and Dance Art.

Sofia, 06.06.2023

Prof. Dr. Georgi Asenov Arnaudov