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Translation from Bulgarian

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsanimir Lyubomirov Baychev,

on the dissertation work on the topic:

“Innovation and optimisation in the work of the flutist-performer, leading to ergonomics, more intense and free interpretation in works of different styles”

of Berten D'Hollander

for acquiring educational and scientific degree Doctor

Professional orientation 8.3. Music and Dance Arts;
Scientific specialty: Music Studies and Music Art,
form of the doctoral studies: free,
Programme/Department: Music

Data of the doctoral student

Berten D'Hollander graduated from the Conservatory of Antwerp, Belgium in 1991, then continued with his Master's degree at Leuven University, Belgium and enrolled in PhD studies at the New Bulgarian University in 2022.

Over the years, he has developed a huge soloist and orchestral career as a soloist musician and as a part of a chamber orchestra.

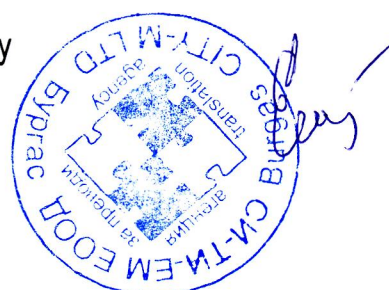
He took an active part in international competitions, including:

2024: Stockton University, NJ, USA

2022: Liszt Academy of Music, Budapest, Hungary, 2022

2021: Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey

2021: Accademia della Musica Francesco Geminiani, Italy



2019: Venezia 2016 Malaga Musical Summer, Spain; Lisbon, Portugal

He started his pedagogical career at LUCA Leuven, Belgium in 1991 as a flute professor. In 2000 he started teaching courses at Hochschule Musik und Tanz, Cologne, Germany, where he developed the skills of assessment, teaching and support of students aged 16-26 by providing detailed instructions for flute technique such as breathing, articulation, posture, phrasing; assisting students in understanding musical styles and their assessment; participating in admission audition examinations and juries of final examinations; participation in faculty recitals; supporting students in their further professional development by explaining expectations during auditions;

He also released five CDs of performance music during the period 2009-2023.

Details about the doctoral studies, dissertation, author's abstract and publications

The dissertation was discussed and proposed for public defence by the Department of Music at New Bulgarian University by Record No. 1 of 13.05.2024.

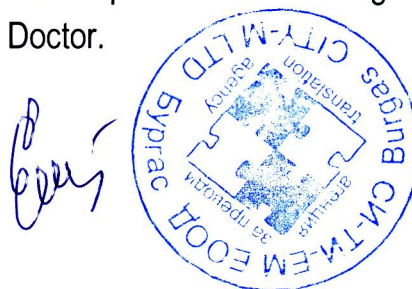
The procedure is in compliance with the requirements of the Law on development of the academic staff in Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Rules for application of LDASRB and the Rules for acquiring scientific degrees at New Bulgarian University.

The scientific work consists of an introduction and three chapters, a conclusion, achievements, bibliography and links with a total volume of 83 pages. 79 pages of them are the main text - exposition and 4 pages - a list of bibliography and links. The bibliography includes 25 sources, 7 of which articles and 18 books.

The author's abstract is correctly prepared according to the requirements and provides sufficient information about the dissertation.

Three scientific publications, which are immediately related to the scientific work with regard to the considered problems, are presented.

The doctoral student has fulfilled the minimum national requirements of the regulations for acquiring the educational and scientific degree Doctor.



Scientific contributions

The contributions are divided into four groups and register the extract of the arguments presented.

1) The author bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, thus combining modern biological knowledge with the aesthetic principles of the famous French Flute School.

2) The author clearly shows that playing the flute is not just breathing and embouchure but a holistic approach to the whole body is needed, starting from the feet, knees, etc., as well as a thorough understanding of the acoustic and practical principles of the instrument.

3) Through an in-depth study and research of the methods of Ivan Galamian and Carl Flesch, the author managed to create a connecting link with flute pedagogy by translating, transposing and applying the pedagogical pillars of violin training in flute training.

4) By discovering, revealing and exploring the medical and scientific aspects of body ergonomics, the author dispels misconceptions and enables each reader to understand and possibly apply a fact-based methodology for playing and teaching the flute.

Conclusion

Berten D'Hollander's dissertation is original in essence, with a practical and applied character. In conclusion, given the fact that the tasks set in the dissertation work are fulfilled and the goals achieved, while appreciating the merits and the contributory character of the research, I strongly suggest that the scientific jury awarded the educational and scientific degree Doctor to Berten D'Hollander.

25 June 2024

Opinion prepared by:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsanimir Baychev

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I, the undersigned Evelina Zheleva Sharapanova, holder of License № 01276-1 issued on 21.05.2018 by Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Consular Relations Directorate, do hereby certify that the foregoing translation from Bulgarian into English of the attached document – **Opinion**, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. The translation consists of three (3) pages.

Translator:

Evelina Zheleva Sharapanova

