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Translation from Bulgarian

# OPINION

by Galina Apostolova

Professor Doctor in Chamber Singing at the Department of Singing

at the Vocal Faculty of the National Academy of Music

Prof. Pancho Vladigerov,

member of the scientific jury, appointed by Order of the Rector

of New Bulgarian University No. 3 - PK - 210 of 13.05.2024

for defence of the dissertation work of Berten D'Hollander on the topic

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

PhD advisor: Prof. Dr. Desislava Shereva;

Professional orientation 8.3. Music and Dance Arts;

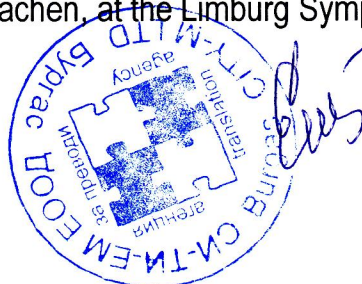
Scientific specialty Music Studies and Music Art,

form of doctoral studies: free,

Programme/Department: Music

for awarding the educational and scientific degree Doctor

Berten D'Hollander is a flutist with serious and versatile concert and pedagogical activity. He has worked in all areas of performance art - as a soloist, chamber ensemble performer and orchestra performer. He has been the principal flutist at Ensemble for Contemporary Music in Brussels, at the Opera House in Aachen, at the Limburg Symphony Orchestra in



Maastricht, at the National Orchestra Brussels, the National Opera in Belgium. He was a soloist of orchestras in Belgium, Finland, Bulgaria. He has participated in various chamber formations in many European countries. He has released seven CDs.

As a pedagogue, he has taught and conducted creative workshops at Akdeniz University in Turkey, in Leuven, Belgium, at Hochschule fur Musik und Tanz, Cologne, Germany, at Liège University, Belgium, at Ferenc Liszt Music Academy, Hungary, at Stockton University, USA, Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey, a Masters course “Summer with Berten” in Bulgaria, at Accademia della Musica Francesco Geminiani, Venice, Italy, etc.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion, a list of contributions and a bibliography in English, containing 52 titles.

In the **introduction**, the doctoral student motivates the writing of the work by the lack of sufficient pedagogical literature on the flute in comparison, for example, with the literature on the violin, with the emphasis of the current work being on physiology and ergonomics.

In the **first chapter** “Violin Methodology” two systems of teaching violin – of Carl Flesch and Ivan Galamian are reviewed and compared. Even though the violin and the flute are different by sound extraction, according to the author, some of the principles of their teaching methodology can be used.

In **second chapter** the physical elements of flute playing - posture, embouchure, breathing, muscles used in breathing and resonance are considered.

The goal is to produce quality sound, for which the position of the body, breathing and resonance are essential. It is especially important that the pedagogue takes into account the individual characteristics of the anatomy of each performer. Referring to



prominent flutists, the author explains the importance of the proper posture of the body, individual embouchure and proper breathing.

In the **third chapter**, “Applied Techniques”, different methods of training, based mostly on the French Flute School, in which the sound becomes lighter, with a bigger number of nuances and vibrato, are shown.

The main principle of Berten D'Hollander's flute training is the so-called “**big triangle**”, in which tone production, applied technique and finger exercises are included as stages. All elements of performance are included here, taking into account the individual physical characteristics, the specifics of the style of the work, the measure when using vibrato. The most important thing for the author is, along with all technical tasks for performance, to reach the music itself.

I consider that Berten D'Hollander's work has definitely made some practical contributions to flute training and could be used as a tool. New and non-standard solutions and methods have been proposed that aim to achieve better instrumentalism in general. It is especially valuable that what has been written by D'Hollander is the result of his long-standing performing and pedagogical experience.

On the basis of all the above, I propose that the esteemed scientific jury awarded to Berten D'Hollander the scientific and educational degree Doctor.

**Sofia, 21.07. 2024**

**Prof. Dr. Galina Apostolova**

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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

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