

OPINION

by Assoc. Dr. Bozhanka Radneva Baycheva

Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin

Preslavski",

Professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Education in (Vocal Training Methodology)

for the dissertation of Etien

Herzl Levy on:

**"MUSIC SINGING FORMATS IN BULGARIA: "MUSIC IDLE", "X FACTOR" AND "LIKE
TWO DROPS OF WATER"**

for acquiring educational and scientific degree "Doctor" Professional field

8.3. Music and Dance

Scientific supervisor: prof. Dr. Milena Shushulova-Pavlova

The main research interests of Etienne Levy is in the field of vocal pedagogy and is focused on training young pop, rock and jazz artists. Professional experience and in-depth theoretical knowledge helped him develop an original dissertation based on fifteen years of vocal work with participants in various singing formats.

The dissertation is well and logically structured in an introduction, four chapters, conclusion, contributions, references and sources and two annexes with a total volume of 139 pages. Of these, 122 pages are a main text exposition, 10 pages of bibliography and 7 pages of annexes. The references include 125 sources.

The presented dissertation explores the essence of music formats and their role in discovering and popularizing new, unknown performers. **The topic of television singing formats and their importance for the preparation and professional realization of the participants is undoubtedly relevant.**

The introduction presents the research field: the problem that is argued convincingly and provokes the choice of the topic is set out; the purpose and tasks of the study are specified.

The first chapter is devoted to the historical development of music singing formats. The author shows excellent awareness of the topic – when considering the prerequisites for the emergence of formats, their distribution around the world and their appearance in Bulgaria.

The second chapter discusses the specific features of "Music Idol" and "X-factor", as well as the realization of the winners after the end of the formats. As a result of the research, the PhD student came to the conclusion that the winners of both formats are professionally realized. According to him, "X-factor" proved more successful for the career development of young artists, thanks to the contract with the music company "Virginia Records", which produced their first performances.

Chapter Three describes the vocal work with the participants from "Music Idol" and "X-factor". The essence of the vocal performing activity and the specific features of the performance of pop and rock music are discussed. Assoc. Prof. Etienne Levy demonstrates in-depth theoretical knowledge in the field of vocal pedagogy – he describes accurately and clearly the methodological steps in the vocal training of performers and competently examines their vocal-performing skills.

The presented results show positive changes and testify to the effectiveness of the vocal training. They are convincing and defend the author's claim that formats are not only a show, but also help performers to develop professionally.

The fourth chapter is dedicated to the television singing format for imitations "Like Two Drops of Water". In preparing the participants for vocal reincarnations, the PhD student uses the same stages of vocal work and research methods as in "Music Idol" and "X-factor". Unlike those formats in which the interpreting skills of the participants are explored, in "Like Two Drops of Water" emphasis is placed on their imitation skills. The results are indicative – the participants have developed their vocal-performing skills, which has significantly improved the quality of their vocal performances.

The results achieved, the findings and evaluations confirm the claim that participation in singing reality formats is not only for the purpose of advertising and promoting the participants, but also contributes to the development and improvement of

their singing, artistic and creative skills. The tasks have therefore been fulfilled and the objective of the research has been achieved.

I agree with the **scientific contributions** of the dissertation, which are convincingly stated and significant. I present them summarized as follows:

- As a major contribution I consider the realization of the idea to explore the role of television singing formats for discovery, vocal preparation, promotion and future professional realization of the participating performers.
- A thorough historical overview of all music singing formats is made according to the sequence of their appearance in time and the number of realized seasons. The prerequisites for their emergence are analyzed and the emergence of television singing formats in Bulgaria is justified.
- For the first time in Bulgaria, a study was conducted to establish the effectiveness of the vocal training of the participants in the formats "Music Idol" and "X-factor".
- The vocal work during which the participants acquire knowledge, skills and competences that they successfully apply in music practice is described. The results deduced confirm the effectiveness of their vocal preparation.
- The role of the formats "Music Idol" and "X-factor" for the successful realization of the winners after the end of the show has been proven.
- The importance of the vocal work with the participants in "Like Two Drops of Water" for improving their vocal-performing skills and improving the quality of vocal incarnations has been proven.

The annotation abstract is prepared correctly according to the requirements and gives enough information about the dissertation.

One publication is presented, which is related to the topic of the dissertation. It is the result of the participation of the doctoral student in a scientific conference.

Etien Levy registers high professional activity in terms of artistic activity, which is associated with numerous public appearances. As a performer he has participated in numerous entertaining programs, concerts, television formats and radio shows, show shows, several musicals, etc. He has won a number of awards from national and international competitions: Second Prize at the Rostock Competition in 1984; Third Prize at the Eurovision Song Contest for Performers, Knokke, Belgium, 1985; First Prize at the Melody of the Year Competition, 1986; Second prize in 1998 in the competition for

original song of "Golden Orpheus" and others.

Since 2002, he has regularly participated as a chairman and jury member in a number of music competitions for young vocal performers in Bulgaria, Russia, Lithuania, Italy and others. After 2007 he gained increasing popularity as a vocal pedagogue with his participation in the music formats "Music Idol", "X-factor" and "Like two drops of water", which motivated him to write the dissertation.

Conclusion

I am fully convinced of the qualities of the dissertation, in which the results achieved are of an original and contributory nature. The study demonstrates the in-depth familiarity of the doctoral student with the subject matter, as well as his professional competence.

Positively assessing the importance of the scientific work and the artistic activity of the student, the rich teaching experience and the professional qualities and skills demonstrated by him, I suggest to the honorable scientific jury to award Assoc. Etien Herzl Levy educational and scientific degree of "DOCTOR".

18 December 2023

Prepared by:

Ass. Dr. Bozhanka Baycheva