

OPINION

on

the doctoral dissertation

"Music and Singing Formats in Bulgaria: "Music Idol", "X – Factor" and "Like Two Drops of Water" – for acquiring the scientific and educational degree "Doctor"

by **ETIEN HERZL LEVI**

Professional field 8.3 Music and dance art; scientific specialty "Musicology and Music Art"

by

Professor Dr. DEYAN EVGENIEV PAVLOV – lecturer in "Opera singing with conductor" at the Department of Music and Performing Arts at the Vocal Faculty and "Opera – Symphonic Conducting" at the Department of Composition and Conducting at the Cooperative Sport at the National Academy of Music "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov" – Sofia

Etienne Herzl Levy was born in 1957. in Sofia. In 1977. graduated from the Secondary School of Music "Lyubomir Pipkov" - Sofia with a degree in piano. In 1981. He graduated from BDK with a degree in pop singing and a second major – piano. In 1991 he completed his higher education in absentia at the National Academy of Music with a master's degree, the same degree was awarded to him by the Ministry of Education and Culture in the town of Smolyan. Jerusalem, Israel. Since 1998. is a lecturer at the National Academy of Music and since 2000 - a part-time lecturer at NBU. Since 2001 he has been a part-time singing teacher at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". On 26.10.2005. He received the habilitation title – "Associate Professor". Since 01.02.2006 He was appointed as a full-time lecturer at the Department of Music at NBU. Since 1983 he has been a soloist of the vocal group "Trick".

Winner of the following awards: 1983 – Youth Competition III prize. 1984 – Rostock – "Songs for People and the Sea" – II prize. 1985 – gr. Knoke – competition of radio – television companies / Eurovision Song Contest for performers /, Belgium – III prize. 1986 – I prize at the competition "Melody of the Year" and the special prize of the Union of Musicians in Bulgaria. 1987 – "Melody of the Year" the award of the town of Veliko Tarnovo.

He has participated in numerous entertaining programs, concerts, TV photos, radio shows and interviews, show-review performances, several musicals for the first experimental pop variety theater in Sofia. Gabrovo.

In 1992. He won several competitions for roles in Andrew Lloyd Webber's famous musical Joseph in the Incredible Striped Shirt. In the same year, he again received a role in a children's musical dedicated to ecology in Israel.

In 1994 he resumed the Trick Show. Then followed performances in the Nevada Show, the Taxi Show and Todor Kolev's show – "How will we reach the Americans", with

the children from the synchronous singing group "Gestim" at the school for the deaf in Plovdiv. Sofia. 1997 creates the duo Etienne and Nelly. 1998 of the "Golden Orpheus" in the song contest, author's song by Etienne Levy "Fairytale World" was awarded II prize. In 1999, at the 30th anniversary Spring Radio Competition, my song "A Look at Mom" was awarded the Ist Prize. 2008 won III prize at the competition "Crossroads of the Muses" - Sofia. Sofia. 2010 won the nomination of the Organization of the Jews in Bulgaria "Shalom" annual award "shofar" for the promotion of Jewish culture and values. From 2001 - 2004 - head of the culture of the Jewish community in Bulgaria. Since 2002 he has been a member of the Public Council for Culture and Tradition and Ethnointegration at the Ministry of Culture. Since 2002/2003/2004 he has been a member of the jury of the International Competition for Pop Artists "Sarandev", Dobrich, where he held a master class and gave recitals. Annually he is chairman of the jury of the competition for young pop performers "Northern Lights", Plovdiv. Ruse. Since 2003. So far, he has also been chairman of the jury of the international competition "Little Stars", Golden Sands. In 2005/2006. is a member and chairman of an international jury of the competition "The Crown of Tarnovgrad", Sofia. V. Tarnovo. In 2006. March became a member of the international jury of the competition "Malenkie Zvozdochki", St. Petersburg, Russia. 2006 - member of the international jury of the Kaunas Talent Competition, Lithuania. Since 2005. to this day he judges the competition "Stars for Lora", Svishtov. 2008 he was a member of the preliminary selection committee for the Eurovision Song Contest. 2009 - chairman of the competition "Sofia sings". Since 2010 - member of Balkanika Academy. 2007 she is a consultant of the world music singing format "Music Idol 1". 2008 and 2009 - vocal pedagogue of the format "Music Idol 2 and 3". 2009 September - participated in the world dance format "Dancing Stars 2". 2011 - vocal pedagogue of the world music format "X factor". Since his inception, he has been a vocal pedagogue of the music format "Like Two Drops of Water" 2011 and 2012. conducts master classes in pop, rock and jazz singing at the MONTFIZ Schools, held in the town of Montfiz. Shumen and mr. Sozopol.

In the years after 1994 he he has numerous appearances in television and radio broadcasts in Bulgaria and Macedonia. He has released two LPs "Trick - I" and "Sixth Sense", as well as two small records.

The dissertation consists of 139 pages which include INTRODUCTION, FOUR CHAPTERS, CONCLUSION, CONTRIBUTIONS, BIBLIOGRAPHY, SOURCES, APPENDIX 1 and ANNEX 2.

In the INTRODUCTION, the candidate formulates his motivation for writing the work. This study is provoked by the exceptional interest of the audience in the emerging TV music formats, by the emergence of numerous opinions and comments about them, both positive and negative: about the vocal qualities of the selected participants, about the objectivity of the jury and their ratings, about the correctness of the ranking and the winners. unknown vocal performers, of talented and capable people of all ages. The dissertation work is the result of many years of vocal work with the participants in the various musical formats, as well as his personal participation in some of them. It explores the essence of television music formats, their importance for discovering and promoting their participants.

In relation to the objective, the following tasks are set:

1. To trace the history of television singing formats.
2. To study and describe the television singing formats realized in Bulgaria and the participants in them – presenters, jury, performers.
3. To monitor the effectiveness of the vocal training of the performers in the formats "Music Idol", "X-factor" to achieve optimal development of their vocal-performing skills. To follow the realization of the winners of the formats "Music Idol" and "X-factor" as vocal performers after their participation in the formats.
4. To trace the importance of the vocal training of the performers in the format "Like Two Drops of Water" for improving their performing skills and improving the quality of their vocal performances.

This presentation analyzes the essence of the musical singing formats realized in Bulgaria. The vocal work with the participants in the formats "Music Idol", "X-factor" and "Like Two Drops of Water" is followed. An attempt is made to answer the question to what extent these shows support the professional development of the participants in them.

First chapter – "History of Music Singing Formats".In ten sub-paragraphs are discussed: Prerequisites for the emergence of musical reality formats; Musical singing formats around the world – *Pop Idol, X-Faktor, The Voice, Like two drops of water*). Appearance of singing artists in Bulgaria.

Chapter 2 – "TV Singing Formats for New Talents in Bulgaria" with 12 sub-points that analyze in detail the television **singing** formats aimed at discovering new talents. The essence and specific features of the *Music Idol and X-factor formats are discussed*. The realization of the winners after the end of the formats is tracked.

Chapter 3 – "Vocal work with the performers from the formats "Music Idol" and "X Factor" – in five subsections are discussed the essence of the vocal-performing activity and the vocal preparation of the participants. The results of the vocal work are presented. A comparative analysis of the results of the two formats is made.

Chapter 4 – "Television Singing Format for Imitations – "Like Two Drops of Water" in four subsections with professional precision reveals the essence of the TV format *"Like two drops of water"*, the jury, the participants, their vocal preparation and its results.

In CONCLUSION, the candidate summarizes that these formats are a relatively new form of television program, which has been gaining great popularity in recent years. They are the result of the rapid development of the mass media, of the changed attitudes and needs of people, of the forms and means of communication. The most massive, popular and accessible media is television, which is trying to attract more and more viewers, offering productions that provide them with a high rating and earning opportunities.

The review of the television singing formats shows that they appeared first abroad and later in Bulgaria. The majority of singing formats are made under a foreign license, so it is necessary to adapt them to the Bulgarian conditions. A characteristic feature of these shows is that a direct connection is made with viewers who evaluate performers according to their own criteria, as there are no precisely established ones. Viewers play an active role and participate in determining the winners with their vote.

CONTRIBUTIONS of the dissertation

1. A historical overview of our famous music singing formats is made, according to the sequence of their appearance over time. The prerequisites for their occurrence are analyzed. The formats "Pop Idol", "X-factor", "The Voice" and "Like Two Drops of Water" in Bulgaria are described in detail. The editions of the formats are systematized according to the number of seasons in different countries. The appearance of television singing formats in Bulgaria is justified. They are described in detail according to the sequence of their appearance.
2. The first study in Bulgaria was conducted to establish the effectiveness of vocal training during the participation of performers in the formats "Music Idol" and "X-factor".
3. The vocal work with the participants is described step by step and results are derived that confirm the effectiveness of their vocal preparation. The acquired knowledge, skills and competences participants successfully apply in music practice in their musical performances.
4. The realization of the winners of "Music Idol" and "X-factor" after their participation in the formats is completed, which proves the role of the show for their subsequent successful career.
5. The results of the vocal work with the participants in "Like Two Drops of Water" prove its importance for improving their skills and improving the quality of the participants' vocal performances.
6. In general, the doctoral work makes a kaleidoscope of the active and most attractive artists – singers and non-singers – on the stage in Bulgaria in the last 20-30 years, who show the face of popular culture in our country. This collected material (with enough internet sources and siteography) can be one starting point for further similar research.

REFERENCES

References include print and Internet resources (due to lack of research and bibliography in the narrow field of doctoral work, especially in Bulgarian). All sites were checked on 18.7.2023 and then they were accessible with the necessary information.

After getting acquainted with the dissertation of the PhD student and considering his great popularity and active activity as a professional in his field, I strongly recommend to the scientific jury to award Etienne Levy with the scientific-educational degree "Doctor".

06.01.2024 prof. Dr. DEYAN EVGENIEV PAVLOV