

OPINION
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by professional field 8.3. "Music and Dance Art"
with candidate Etien Herzl Levy

The dissertation of Etienne Herzl Levy on "MUSICAL SINGING FORMATS IN BULGARIA: MUSIC IDOL, X-FACTOR AND LIKE TWO DROPS OF WATER" presented to me for writing a thesis on "*MUSICAL SINGING FORMATS IN BULGARIA: MUSIC IDOL, X-FACTOR AND LIKE TWO DROPS OF WATER*" is developed within one volume of 139 pages. The text of the dissertation contains an introduction, four chapters dealing respectively with the history and emergence of musical singing formats, the created television singing formats for new talents in Bulgaria, the personal experience of the dissertant and his vocal work with performers from the formats "Music Idol" and "X-factor", as well as the television singing format "Like Two Drops of Water", conclusion, contributions, bibliography and sources and two extremely valuable with its information applications. Each of the four chapters contains its own subchapters dealing in depth with different aspects of the problem, which creates a very clear construction of the text of the dissertation study, accuracy and precision in exposing these and a visible balance between the empirical and theoretically developed material.

From the very beginning, I should point out that the topic is extremely important not only scientifically but also scientifically. It was developed by an outstanding musician, a specialist with decades of experience, both as a performer on the Bulgarian and international pop music scene, as well as in music pedagogy and working with young talents – as a teacher and as a direct participant in the formats described in the dissertation. Such a topic is not

commented in our musical-scientific literature, I do not know of an analogue, and in the existing register with a database of NACID can not be found information for the development of such a dissertation study in Bulgarian. The fact of the existence of such a study is already contributed both to the historical overview of our famous music singing formats, to the in-depth study of the effectiveness of vocal training with different performers during their participation in different formats, to the numerous descriptions of vocal work with these young performers and to the follow-up of their further creative path, with the realized long-term study of the impact of participation in different formats on the psyche of performers. And all this should be considered as a bright contribution to our native musicology.

Here I should point out that not only the choice of a topic, but also the overall research and development of the logical structure of the text are significant and have contribution. The objectives and objectives of the study are justified and outlined very clearly in the introduction of the dissertation and they are focused on establishing the role and importance of the existence of musical formats for the finding and discovery of young talents, on the role of music educators in the preliminary vocal training, as well as on the study of the promotion and realization of the performers involved in them in a subsequent stage.

The tasks are set clearly and precisely, and they have as their main tools the tracking and study of different historical contexts, the study and description of formats, the tracking - realized in a huge number of participants - of the effectiveness of vocal training, as well as the study of possible methodological and

pedagogical moves to improve the quality of their vocal performances.

In the entire text of the dissertation study it is evident that Etienne Herzl Levy has an extremely high degree of knowledge of the state of the problem, as well as clarity and broad knowledge of both the history of the Bulgarian pop music scene and the contemporary context and the existing realities placed in an extremely dynamic environment. In an initial first chapter is examined the history of the emergence of musical singing formats such as Pop Idol, X-Factor, The Voice, Like Two Drops of Water and the subsequent appearance of singing formats in Bulgaria. The next second chapter explores the television singing artists in Bulgaria and their role in discovering new talents. Here the main focus of the study is placed on the essence and specific features of the formats "Music Idol" and "X-factor". The third chapter of the dissertation is focused on the vocal work of the student with the participants of these formats. Here I can bring out as particularly contributing the many descriptions of pedagogical activity, as well as the study of the essence of the vocal-performing activity and the vocal preparation of the participants. Chapter Four presents the essence of another TV format "Like Two Drops of Water", the work of the jury, the jury, the participants, their vocal preparation and its results.

Here I should recognize one of the greatest merits of this study. Personally, I have always been skeptical of this type of format, not only because of my long-standing refusal to contact the television media, but also because of personal aesthetic preferences. Reading in detail such a magnificent study, with the attached statistics, with magnificently crafted tables and diagrams, with shared experience and a lot of information, and finally – with the incredible love with which the dissertant has described his work – I managed to find a new perspective on the problem, as well as to find ways to understand the context of the existence of such new forms of musical art. And here I would personally recommend the dissertant to publish this incredibly valuable study as a book.

The text of Etienne Levy's dissertation is based on citations and references of a representative number of authors, with a total of 145 titles of articles, publications, interviews, etc. indicated in the Bibliography section. published materials 102 of which are in Cyrillic and 43 are publications in Latin script. All of them, as well as numerous links to electronic publications are cited very correctly and accurately in the body of the text of the dissertation as footnotes.

I am familiar with the text of the autoreferencing presented to me by the dissertant which contains 31 pages and very accurately and clearly basic points and problems from the text of the dissertation. Attached to the dissertation is information about publications by Etienne Levy in the proceedings of the "Young Scientific Forum for Music and Dance: Conference with International Participation. – Sofia: New Bulgarian. Univ. Department of Music, 2007- ISSN 1313- 342X (print), a publication that is included in the register of the National Reference List of Contemporary Bulgarian Scientific Publications with Scientific Review. And this, as well as the many creative expressions of the dissertant, makes his activity fully compliant with the requirements of the Regulations for the Application of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

I fully accept the contributions made in the text of the dissertation and, on the basis of my comments, notes and reflections mentioned above, I venture to appreciate both all the practical work of Etienne Herzl Levy and the overall work on this research and writing of the dissertation. I also congratulate his supervisor prof. Dr. Milena Shushulova-Pavlova for working with the student.

I would like to propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to award to Etien Herzl Levy the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in specialty 8.3. "Music and Dance Art".

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