

OPINION

by

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On the thesis for the award of PhD educational and scientific degree

Professional field (code 8.3) "Music and Dance Art", doctoral programme "Music"

PhD student: Hristo Ivanov Dimitrov, PhD student with a separate schedule with
New Bulgarian University, Sofia

Theme: **National Folklore Ensemble Bulgare. Managing and creative
approaches"**

Scientific supervisor: Georg Kraev, PhD

The present opinion was established based on the submitted thesis, thesis outline, statement on the contributions of the thesis, publications on the topic of the thesis submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Act on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB) and the Ordinance on the application of the ADASRB for the award of the PhD educational and scientific degree and the scientific degree Doctor of Science.

Hristo Ivanov Dimitrov graduated in 1994 in major: choreographic direction. On 1st October 2002 in Sofia he founded the National Folklore Ensemble Bulgare - the largest private professional folklore ensemble in Bulgaria and in Europe, which has become one of the cultural highlights of our country. He wrote the script, directed and choreographed all the performances of the ensemble to date. Hristo Dimitrov is organizer, co-author and leader of a number of patriotic initiatives, initiator and co-organizer of annual festivals and cultural traditions.

This diverse biography and gained experience naturally led to the choice of the topic for the scientific survey "**National Folklore Ensemble Bulgare. Managing and creative approaches**". The theme is in line with current tendencies, and is

useful in terms of concept and practical orientation. The thesis presents the specificities of the ensemble Bulgare. On the basis of his experience the PhD student reveals the intricacies of managing the ensemble and some details concerning the creative interpretation of the professional folklore based art.

Thesis content analysis:

The thesis of Hristo Ivanov Dimitrov amounts to 231 pages, of which 150 pages are main text. It consists of an introduction, an exposition in three chapters, conclusion, a list of references and annexes. The bibliography counts 220 sources.

Clearly presented in the **introduction** are the subject and the object of the thesis and the main goal is outlined: **"to present the current state of the management and the artistic and creative work in the National Folklore Ensemble Bulgare (NFE) as a model example for the functioning of a private professional folklore ensemble in the conditions of a market economy. On this basis, identify and present the chronotope of managerial and creative approaches in the artistic re-creation of traditional Bulgarian folklore, turning it into a contemporary artistic product. Present the achieved results and propose new managerial and creative forms for the management and organization of artistic and creative production, in accordance with the specifics of classical folklore culture and with the process of creation in a competitive market environment."** To achieve this main goal Dimitrov sets specific and clearly outlined tasks: To review and analyze the achievements of the NFE and to assess its impact on the development of professional folk dance art in a market economy, to present the author's approaches in the interpretation of traditional Bulgarian folklore and in its turning into a product of contemporary dance art, to analyze the management structure and the legal framework of the private folklore ensemble and to present the management characteristics of a folklore ensemble of this kind as basis for a creative interpretation of Bulgarian dance folklore, to present and analyze the professional managerial functions and the artistic management of the chief artistic director of the private folklore ensemble along the process creating the artistic product, to present the different educational approaches in the course of creating the folklore performance as well as the main directions in the field of art management.

The methods used for obtaining the scientific results are: empirical research, survey of sources with information, observations, probing, presentation of main organizational and artistic experience.

In Chapter 1: Historic overview of the origin and the development of Bulgarian professional folk dance art, the PhD student presented the development of the professional folklore based art. Presented are historical notes on the first professional folk ensembles, their ways of management and financing, their repertoire and concert activities. Based on this information, two main periods in the development of *folklore* art are distinguished - socialist culture and the period of transition. Special attention is paid to analyzing the role of the chief artistic director in the state ensemble, the role of the national and regional socialist artistic structures, which impacted his whole organizational, economic and artistic activity, until the establishment of the First Private Professional Folklore Ensemble Bulgare.

In the second chapter The Creation of the first private National Folklore Ensemble Bulgare. Managing approaches. Dimitrov reveals his experience regarding the structure and the management of the ensemble Bulgare, presenting the modes of training the performers of the ensemble for the stage. He makes a comparison between the specificities of the ensemble Bulgare and other professional ensembles, subsidized by the State. He also introduces and develops his idea of the necessity for such institutions to exist.

Chapter 3: Basic artistic approaches in creating a contemporary folk dance performance, has 4 sub-chapters:

1) Creative Principles; 2) Examples for turning the traditional Bulgarian folklore into contemporary dance art; 3) The performance *The Eighth Wonder* a living example of an artistic recreation of certain fragments of traditional Bulgarian folklore; 4) Contemporary dance art as a means for reviving the Bulgarian spirit and culture. In this part of the thesis, the PhD student presents his personal experience in terms of his creative searches in his work with the ensemble Bulgare.

The last part of the survey is named "End notes. Conclusions" and is too laconic and declarative.

Opinion:

On the basis of the examined thesis on the theme: *National Folklore Ensemble Bulgare. Managing and creative approaches*, I recommend to the members of the esteemed jury to award to Hristo Ivanov Dimitrov the PhD educational and scientific degree, in the professional field "Music and Dance Art", code 8.3, doctoral programme "Music".

Done by Assistant Professor Georgi Garov,

10.10.2022, Blagoevgrad