

STATEMENT

by Prof. Dr. Simo Lazarov

on the dissertation of **Nayden Vladislavov Todorov**

DEVELOPMENT OF SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS IN BULGARIA. HISTORY, CURRENT ISSUES AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

in the Professional Field

8.3. Music and Dance Art, specialisation in Musicology and Music Art

The dissertation contains 258 pages, divided into an Introduction, four Chapters, Conclusion and Conclusions, a Self-Assessment of Contributions, a Bibliography with 46 sources and a Siteography with 233 sources, and a Periodical with 25 sources. There are eight appendices and three publications in this dissertation.

The object and the subject of the research, the aims and objectives of the research are clearly and precisely formulated. The focus is on the state of the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra. Refracted through the prism of the best world practices, the whole research acquires fundamental value, considering the best world practices and applying in our conditions some models to improve the results of the whole team. The main research questions are a prerequisite for leading the analysis to the necessary conclusions and implications.

In presenting the specificities of symphonic art, the creative and aesthetic potential is highlighted, with emphasis on the ways of interacting with the environment. Key elements of the methodological framework are described in detail. The author of the dissertation demonstrates the relevance of the topic throughout the work, focusing primarily on those factors of the contemporary socio-cultural environment that directly influence the self-identity and realisation of organisational and concert activities.

In the first chapter, the nature of the symphony orchestra is examined in detail, with serious attention paid to the types of orchestras according to their composition, operational aims and ownership. Of interest is the relationship between the 'institutions', the orchestra and the hall. Attention is given to the meaning and implications of the terminological categories of 'philharmonic' and 'symphony orchestra', as well as to the status of musical ensembles. The doctoral student rightly emphasises the idea of providing this information in order to show the relationship between the orchestra and the house or institution, in view of the need for a different approach on the part of the relevant management.

Musical orchestras in Bulgaria and their stages of development, as well as an analysis of the reforms carried out over the last 30 years, are presented in the second chapter. This is an important study that shows the evolution, metamorphoses and institutional organisation. It is an extremely interesting study, both for its historical value and for its analytical justification of the economic aspects of these ensembles. The state of the reforms carried out over the years is described with great skill. The doctoral student draws valuable conclusions about the process of cultural reforms in the musical and performing arts in Bulgaria. One of the important reflections formulated by the doctoral student is that "only after the adoption of the Strategy for the Development of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria should we talk about reforms based on the set long-term strategic goals". The notion of "innovation" in the context of a reform is also presented - one that should be implemented in cultural organisations.

The position presented is positive towards the elements of established practice described. The text in this chapter is extremely comprehensive in its approach to the problems of the current state of existing problems in society.

The analytical approach - the collected and researched facts about orchestras in Bulgaria and around the world in the context of the modern globalisation of the social environment gives good results, which fully present the picture for the implementation of socio-economic policies so necessary to meet the society's need for a culture of communication. And through such structures, according to the doctoral candidate, one can "influence the formation of the personality and its relationship with the world".

Chapter three tests a model of strategy as a factor influencing the performance of the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra. The historical overview shows the changing situation in the context of political-economic challenges. The dissertation analyses the management structure, development strategy and mission of the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra. The highlights of the development of the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra are also presented.

In order to achieve the goal of the study - to determine the actual state of the functioning of the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra and the quality of the work performed, the exposé follows the canons of scientific development. Combining a practical approach to the problem, the candidate generates the set objectives of the research, as the meaning and results of the research outline a complete picture of the state of the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra. The doctoral candidate also pays attention to these problems, bringing them to multidimensionality, including in their content the musical, sociological, cultural and historical essence and benefits.

Chapter four analyses the problems of managing a symphony orchestra. The interdependencies between the musical arts and industry are examined. A comparative analysis of the European and American models is made, as well as the particularities of the London Philharmonic Orchestra and the Vienna Philharmonic. The different ways in which orchestras are managed in different countries are also a function of different economic models. This, of course, places different demands on their leaders. The wealth of publications in this dissertation is sufficient to place the ambitions of this section in the foreground.

The different ways in which orchestras are managed in different countries also reflect different economic models. This, of course, leads to different demands on their leaders. The wealth of publications in this dissertation is sufficient to place the contributory ambitions of this section at the forefront.

The other important components - the audience and the beneficial influence of music on the human psyche - are also addressed in the exposé. The nature of the consumer in the context of the media sphere is also examined. The pros and cons of the imperfect market are outlined, as are the various ways in which the advertising market influences consumption. A serious analysis of the "music industry" is detailed, including components

related to the elements of authenticity and credibility of the cultural industry or public-social activity, such as the politics of orchestras.

The stated aim of the dissertation - to offer a critical perspective on the directions of symphony orchestra development - is fulfilled.

The dissertation seeks to address the problem of the economic and institutional aspects of contemporary dissemination from various perspectives. In particular, the choice of repertoire in relation to the identity of the symphony orchestra, the legal framework for the management and the financing of the cultural institution will be examined.

The methodological framework is made up of several analytical tools, each of which is a thematic centre - the socio-contextual, economic, institutional and technological tools are perfectly mastered in order to bring out the thesis of the need to present the problems of the dissertation research in a "logical sequence". This is related to the study of problems of existing theoretical formulations of the symphony orchestra, adapting methodological and methodological assumptions for the evaluation and analysis of the c The practical research is aimed at the implementation of the methodology.

The author's analysis is based on a wealth of bibliographical material, refracted through his vision of a contemporary interpretation of the problems of the symphony orchestra. □ The doctoral student's ideas on "improving the management of symphony orchestras through the construction of an institutional policy in the direction of cultural industry or public-social activity, as well as some basic aspects influencing the choice of management policy" are valuable. He proposes integral criteria for evaluating musicians in symphony orchestras. An approval is given by illustrating the planning and performance of a concert of the institution. Analysed in this way, a picture of a classical symphony orchestra is obtained that is consistent with various existing criteria.

The conclusion of the thesis summarises the sum result of the described factors influencing the existence of the symphony orchestra. The need for specialised scientific literature dealing with the issues raised in the dissertation makes the dissertation extremely necessary in the current period of change.

Its structure and scope meet the requirements of a doctoral thesis. This work could also be very useful for the scientific circles that form the picture of the contemporary symphony orchestra.

With an inherent desire for comprehensiveness, the doctoral student does not limit the scope of his exposition and provides a comprehensive overview and analysis. The theoretical tools skillfully used by the author indicate a high level of knowledge of the problem. The research methodology is scientifically sound. The data obtained allows for a detailed analysis. The research model is focused on symphony orchestras and mainly on the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra. The dissertation studies, identifies and analyses the factors that are the cornerstones of the processes that comprise the problem. The work is comprehensive, the generalisations are analytical, the conclusions are precise.

Scientific contributions are defined in seven points. In the dissertation contributions, the dissertator draws attention to the organisation and identification of certain elements together with the defined interrelationships between them, analysis of changes in individual elements. The contributions presented in the dissertation give new directions for the current state of symphony orchestras, and the analyses, opinions and views make the dissertation extremely useful. The author's personal attitude and critical position are scientifically sound and constructive.

Arguing with the above conclusions about the work of the doctoral candidate in the dissertation and coming to the conclusion that it fully meets the necessary requirements, I propose to the Honourable Scientific Jury that Nayden Todorov be awarded the educational and scientific degree of Doctor in the 8.3. "Music and Dance Art", field of specialisation "Musicology and Music Art".

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/Prof. Dr. Simo Lazarov/

