

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Angel Angelov Zaberski
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professional field 8.3. "Music and Dance Art",
for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"
in the professional field 8.3 "Music and Dance Art"

for candidate
Teodor Todorov Popov

"ELECTRONIC SOUND DESIGN AND ITS APPLICATIONS IN DJING"

The candidate Teodor Popov possesses a rather rich artistic biography. I would not like to repeat the information concerning the biographical data that it offers to the esteemed academic jury, but from the proposed dissertation it is evident that a serious application for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Musicology and Musical Art", professional field of study 8.3 "Music and Dance Art" has been made.

Teodor Popov meets the criteria and requirements for attestation specified in the Ordinance for the Development of the Academic Staff of New Bulgarian University and the Procedure for Long-term Attestation of Lecturers at New Bulgarian University and has met the national requirements concerning groups of indicators for the respective scientific degree.

The candidate is a shining example of a successful musical growth and performing career in the field of music. Popov's focus on scholarly development and specifically on this topic is undoubtedly influenced by his stage work, and is associated with his knowledge of a vast artistic repertoire. The doctoral dissertation is a serious and in-depth study, which also makes the claim to present an important and essential part of the eventual pedagogical work from a scientific, analytical and practical perspective.

The relevance of the chosen topic is undeniable – to collect and make known an important, large and valuable body of information stemming from his musical practice, which has not yet been presented, described, compared, analyzed and deduced in terms of concrete observations and artistic stage results. The Ph.D. student's scientific awareness of the problem under study is undoubtedly related to his in-depth and result-oriented professional education, with his analytical approaches to his personal creative development, and with his vast practical experience as an artist in musical and performing genres.

The purpose and the tasks in the dissertation are correctly formulated, their statement and clarification follow a logical order, determined by the consistent consideration and thorough analysis of the factual material. In the present research, Popov presents his educational vision also in the field of music pedagogy. Taking the risk of entering a space of discussion, the doctoral student directs the focus of his elaboration towards clarifying the

aspects of DJing and its manifestations that need to be mastered in their interaction on stage. A diverse range of essential material is presented that is in direct relation to the object and subject of his research. The credibility of the materials used is unquestioned, as is their presentation in various ways. The materials are an essential and integral part of the author's concept developed in the present work, they provide a broad basis for reasoning and conclusions that illuminate important stages and directions in the practical activity of the doctoral student. In the first chapter methodological foundations of scientific and practical research of electronic sound design and its applications in DJing are presented.

The methodological approach is one of the main issues investigated in this Ph.D. thesis. Teodor reviews the main problems of electronic sound design and DJing, which should be acquired and mastered by every artist involved in this field of music. Particularly valuable are his exemplary sets of practical ideas to be grasped in the learning process and purposefully applied in this activity with the necessary individual supervision.

Without being a specialist in this field, I can say that the scientific and creative contribution is of the highest value and presents in a convincing way the essence of the Ph.D. student's research concept. The exposition of the core of the research material proves that all major areas and aspects of electronic sound design are covered and they have direct relevance to the overall design and organization of the Ph.D. thesis. The various problems and tasks are brought out in their logical interconnection and consistent sequence, according to the artistic direction and its particular specificity. There is also a very precisely developed classification with wide possibilities also for pedagogical application in the constructed systematics of the different stages in the training.

The contributions of the dissertation, as outlined by Popov, present naturally succeeding layers of knowledge and reveal the multidirectionality and broad limits of the research topic. This research study can fulfill its role as a source of valuable information and new knowledge.

The publications of Teodor Popov are directly related to the topic and concern specific moments of the organization of the dissertation. I consider his practical performance activity as a separate creative contribution. It is more than impressive. I can give the highest appreciation for his commitment, consistency, thoroughness and demonstrated desire for scientific growth and development. All this gives me grounds to recommend to the esteemed members of the scientific jury to award to him the scientific and educational degree of "Doctor" in the scientific specialty 8.3 "Musicology and Musical Art".

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