

OPINION

of

Prof. Dr. Simo Lazarov for the dissertation of

VELICHKA GEORGIEVA CHAUSHEVA

"The Place of Bulgarian Song Folklore in the Aural Development of Adolescent Students. Possibilities for Application in the Educational Domain"

**for conferment of the educational and scientific degree of Doctor in the professional field:
8.3. Music and dance art, with scientific supervisors: Prof. Dr. Georg Kraev and Prof. Dr. Svetla Kaludova-Stanilova**

Velichka Chausheva's creative biography warrants the assumption that in her professional career she has been repeatedly in position to analyse folklore from practical perspective as a factor in forming the Aural Development of Adolescents. In her dissertation she defends these starting points and defines this factor scientifically, analytically and in terms of research.

The dissertation text contains 202 pages, distributed in introduction, exposition in four chapters, and conclusion, with bibliographic sources – 133 titles in Bulgarian and eight in Russian and English, with appendices that contain music examples, graphic tables, surveys of parents, surveys of children and surveys of music supervisors.

The doctoral student methodically describes, analyses and researches her formulations, enabling the complete construal of the picture of the Aural Development of Adolescents in the context of Bulgarian song folklore. The outlined objectives of the dissertation focus on the integration processes in the construction of music education. Analysing the role of folklore in constructing of the modern educational domain, the doctoral student has generated the idea of a new dimension of the educational process.

The subject of the research refers to the application of Bulgarian song folklore in the development of the musical abilities of adolescents. The object of the research is the aural development of the children in the vocal group of Kindergarten 95. The aim of the dissertation is to point out the importance of the practical application of Bulgarian song folklore in the aural development of adolescents.

There are seven tasks assigned for the achievement of the main objective, with two hypotheses deduced for the purposes of the research, and seven methods have been used to accomplish the assigned objectives and tasks.

The historical overview of the first chapter of the dissertation introduces the traditions of music education in some comprehensive schools in Europe and around the world, and acquainting us with the educational system of Bulgaria from the Renaissance to the present day, the doctoral student points out that "the spiritual survival of the adolescents "resides" in the deeply laid "cultural" roots of the past".

The problems under consideration are based on the analysis of specialized observation on the problem of musical education of adolescents through familiarizing with the specifics and diversity of Bulgarian folklore. The topics of globalization are analysed in the light of folklore art, of the educational system and pop folk. This serves as a kind of basis and starting point for the next step in structuring the problem of the analysis of the process of Aural Development of

Adolescents.

In her exposition, Velichka Chausheva has used numerous quotations, names and facts which blaze the trail for her research. The researched literature sources help to build the coherent theoretical line of the dissertation. The doctoral student has gone into detail on the requisite description of the characteristics of melody and its elements.

Reaching the conclusion that "Adequate inclusion into the" cultural mix "of traditions in the context of globalization is possible if the modern interaction of technological progress is bound to the awareness of personal and ethnic identification through native folklore," the doctoral student also draws attention to the specifics of mastering the "social dynamics and diversity in a globalizing world, which lead to the transnational nature of the sense of belonging of individuals and communities."

The text highlights the factors leading to the necessity to set up conditions and resources for training in classical and non-classical folklore are clarified. The definition of the concept of folklore, as well as the analysis of its essence and development, is the object of research, outlined in chapter two. Supported by numerous citations, the concept also draws attention to the detailed, substantiated conclusion about the similarities and differences of teaching in the context of classical and non-classical folklore culture.

This portion of the exposition highlights the need to „search for a model which would enable folklore to find its place in the development of children in adolescent and preschool age.” Their patent receptivity and impulsive responsiveness on hearing a folk song, their willingness to learn and perform it, their interest and fondness for our folklore, in which they have also fascinated their families are part of the reasons one can claim that children can be extremely teachable."

In search for a model which would enable children to become receptive to the study of folklore, the doctoral student has examined the topics outlining its essence. Analysing the topics *Orality vs. Literacy*, *Role – performer vs. listener*, *Village – Town (Rurality vs. Urbanity)*, *Temperament*, *Deciphering*, *Notation*, *Technologies*, *Recording*, *Composer's Intervention*, *Harmonization*, *Arrangement* Velichka Chausheva has reached the general conclusion stating that "On its road to this day, folklore has undergone its metamorphoses, which account for its having "survived", in coexistence with the emerging urban tradition of Bulgarian society, "engaged" in "the dynamic processes of the modern world. Looking at it from its personality aspect, it is clear that folklore nowadays is one of the forms of self-expression and self-assertion of people".

Chapter Three explores the **MUSICA AND AUDITORY UPBRINGING OF ADOLESCENTS BY MEANS OF BULGARIAN SONG FOLKLORE**. This chapter provides a valuable overview of the advantages and disadvantages of the applied methodological approaches for the validation of Bulgarian song folklore as a factor in the Aural Development of Adolescents. The road of pre-school education has been traced from the time of Georgi Sava Rakovski to the present day by way of a scholarly analysis of the need for a reasoned exposition of the musical material in order for children to commit it to memory for a longer time. Specific ideas are also proposed, which reflect different approaches and variations to achieve the goal.

This chapter of the dissertation proves that "auditory and educational work requires scientific knowledge of psychology in order to refine the stages for building a musical-auditory conception". Notated music examples are provided and parameters are outlined, so that "the ear with its structure enables the obtaining of perception² of the height, durability, volume and timbre of sound, which is carried out through the pitch, metro-rhythmic, dynamic and timbral hearing." The doctoral student points out that "what is of particular importance in this period is to foster the melodic hearing, the sense of modality, the sense of metro-rhythm and, to some extent, the

sense of polyphony."

Chapter Four is focused on ANALYSES OF THE PLACE OF BULGARIAN SONG FOLKLORE IN PRESENT-DAY MUSIC-EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION. There is analysis represented in a graphic form of the results of the survey of parents, the results of the study of the children, as well as the results of the study of the music leaders. This way of visualization is especially useful in view of the instantaneous perception and the possibility of comparative analysis.

The conclusion is formulated in a professional manner, the contributions of the dissertation are outlined in detail. The seven indicated contributions are essentially genuine and can be deemed original, since the research was performed using the specifics of scientific analysis. Velichka Chausheva has brought together the practical and theoretical principle and this is evident from the overall exposition of the subject. And the topic is multifaceted and the overall coverage of the issues under consideration has a huge potential for development.

A well-formulated objective and tasks of the doctoral studies are in evidence, which pave the way for perspective and meaningful / consequential research. The thesis maintained by the author reflects substantial scientific potential. The chosen methodology and methodical procedure of research are in conformity to the aim and objectives the dissertation study is tasked with.

The contributions of the doctoral dissertation give a clear idea of the enormous quantity of work that was expended on it. They also provide directions for future research, which should inevitably continue, since the topic of the role of Bulgarian song folklore in the aural development of adolescents is of particular importance in view of preserving its identity in the modern intonational environment.

Based on the argument of the above stated conclusions about the work achieved in the dissertation study, and concluding that the doctoral student entirely meets the necessary requirements of ZRASRB, I advise the esteemed scientific jury to confer to Velichka Chausheva the educational and scientific degree of Doctor in the professional field: 8.3. Music and dance art.

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/ Prof. Dr. Simo Lazarov /