

Review

**by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Metev Petkov, Department of Music at NBU, professional field 8.3
"Music and Dance Art"**

**on the doctoral dissertation of
Velichka Georgieva Chausheva**

on the subject of:

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

**for the conferment of the educational and scientific degree of Doctor in Professional field: 8.3.
Music and Dance Art.**

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Georg Kraev, Prof. Dr. Svetla Kaludova- Stanilova

The dissertation work, comprising a volume of 202 pages, consists of introduction, presentation in four chapters, conclusion, used literature sources – 133 titles in Bulgarian and 8 in Russian and English, as well as appendices containing: Appendix 1 – tables 1, 2 and 3; Appendix 2: musical examples of carols and St. Lazarus Day songs; Appendix 3 – Surveys taken of parents; Surveys of children; Surveys of music supervisors.

The creative biography of dissertator Velichka Chausheva is professionally related to the song folklore. A long-time participant / member in the world-renowned women's folk choir Bulgarian Voices – THE ANGELS, and Dragostin Folk National. In 2009 began work as a teacher in folk singing at L. Pipkov Nat. Sch. of Music. The chosen subject of the research is closely related to her professional and practical activity. The title "The Place of Bulgarian Song Folklore in the Aural Development of Adolescents", has enabled the author to focus on a „sore” topic of our times and one which is to some extent avoided by researchers.

The introduction of the study presents the relevance and significance of the problem. The objectives and tasks set by the author have received due substantiation in the individual chapters. The contributonal nature of the dissertation can be appreciated through the insufficiency of studies and research on the specified problem. Velichka Chausheva has voiced her valid concern about the insufficient and somewhat "symbolic" representation of Bulgarian song folklore in the textbooks of the educational field "Music for the Kindergarten". The treatise provides a historical reference for the publications and public figures that have made significant contribution after the Liberation and into the present day for the enrichment of the musical and folklore repertoire, suitable for work with young children. As the main task of the present treatise, the author has tried to "indicate" the place and importance of Bulgarian song folklore in the aural development of adolescents.

The first chapter provides systematized information on some good practices of foreign educational systems where local folklore is used as a basis for music education. The text provides some basic outlines in the search for correct methodology and right approaches for music teaching through folklore in Bulgaria after the Liberation to the present day, and parallels are made with in-school studies and extracurricular activities. The text also analyses the problematics associated with the impact of globalization on Bulgarian national folk music heritage and the educational system.

The conditions and means of education in classical and non-classical folkloric culture and their influence on the development of adolescents are presented and analysed in Chapter Two. It

summarizes the transmission mechanisms of social experience and folklore heritage from generation to generation and the superseding of generational "educational" practices by in-school study. Particularly contributory is Chapter Three, where the author makes a proposal for the practical implementation of specific methodological guidelines, approaches and tasks intended to facilitate a more thorough familiarization of children with Bulgarian song folklore.

The survey, mentioned in Chapter Four, of some of the children participating in a vocal group at Kindergarten 95 Omainiche supports the thesis that folk songs are preferred by children over other songs studied in kindergarten. Surveys conducted among parents and music supervisors have provided basis for some valuable deductions, conclusions and recommendations with respect to the practical application in future music education.

The text proposes a system for building of auditory experience and formation of the aesthetic criteria in young children through the medium of Bulgarian song folklore. This is the first instance of advancing the idea to select folk songs based on the most widespread modes – Aeolian, Ionian, Phrygian, as well as to use in a bolder way the variety of unequal sizes. For future publications of the text it shall be necessary to refine the precision of the terminological apparatus, as well as to correct the meter of the song *Oy shope, shope*, which is actually notated in 7/16 while the meter indicated in the text is 13/16. In example 1 on page 124, a Dorian tetrachord is presented under the title "Aeolian".

The author possesses thorough knowledge of the researched problem and evaluates in a creative way the literary material from the provided bibliographical reference. The thesis advanced in the scientific material has academic potential, relevance and practical applicability oriented toward the formation of intonational and acoustic aesthetic criteria from the earliest age of childhood on the basis of Bulgarian song folklore. The chosen research methodology is in correspondence to the objectives and tasks as set by the author. The conclusion gives a clear idea of the results accomplished by the study. The contributions of the work are outlined correctly on a textual level and the personal merit goes to Velichka Chausheva:

- proposing a system of models for the formation and development of musical abilities in children at an early age through Bulgarian folk intonations
- systematization of existing musical-educational experience through the practical application of folk songs in the preschool educational system from the Liberation to the present day and outlining of the systemic-structural culturological picture of Bulgaria
- extensive tracing of the process related to the development of the idea of music education being implemented using folklore in Bulgarian schools and clarifying the main methodological problems of foreign methods imported from abroad and their overcoming
- exploring the change in attitudes, evaluation and confidence in Bulgarian musical folklore and analysis of its beneficial effect on personal and spiritual growth of adolescents, tracing the impact of certain globalization processes on the awareness of Bulgarian song folklore as a factor in auditory development
- consideration of the adequate and optimal interaction between the family, the kindergarten and the public, in order to promote the social and personal development of adolescents
- presentation of a working model founded on vocal-instrumental basis

The presented dissertation study titled "The Place of Bulgarian Song Folklore in the Aural Development of Adolescents. Possibilities for its Application in the Modern Educational Domain"

reflects the current actual place of the folk song in preschool education. The present study examines and emphasizes the important place of Bulgarian folk songs for the musical education of adolescents in preschool age, demonstrating the good perspective afforded by Bulgarian song folklore as a possibility for direct application in the practice of music education at this age. The topic is versatile and the theoretical and practical observations, summaries, conclusions and results of the study, realized in the research can be also used for subsequent studies and scientific treatises.

The abstract is prepared in conformity to the requirements and correctly reflects the main position and scientific contributions of the dissertation study. The dissertator has authored three publications related to the topic of research.

Based on the above, I believe that the doctoral student satisfies the necessary requirements of the Law of Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and I advise the esteemed academic jury to confer to Velichka Chausheva the educational and scientific degree of Doctor in the professional field: 8.3. Music and dance art.

Sofia, 30 December 2021

Reviewer

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Petkov