

EXPERT REVIEW

by **Yavor Svetozarov Konov**,

MD, PhD, from the New Bulgarian University (NBU) Music Department,
a professor of polyphony in the professional field 8.3 Musical and Dance Art

for a dissertation on a topic

"YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS - WORLD AND NATIONAL PRACTICES AND MODELS"
(Sofia, NBU, 2019)

of the doctoral student **Svetlina Ilieva Terzieva-Angelova**,
with scientific supervisor prof. Elisaveta Valchinova-Chendova,
developed at the Music Institute of New Bulgarian University,

for the awarding of a Doctoral degree in professional direction 8.3 "Musical and dance art

Biography of the Doctoral candidate

Master Svetlina Ilieva Terzieva-Angelova graduated with a specialising in violin from the National Music Academy "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov" in Sofia in 1991. In 2012, she completed her Master's degree in Cultural Management at New Bulgarian University (NBU) in Sofia.

Since 2003, she has worked as a violinist orchestral soloist at the Sofia Philharmonic, where she has also served as Director (2016-17), and Creative Management Manager (2015-16), and Director of the Fortissimo Family Program (2012-2014). She is fluent in English.

Accordingly, she has experience in designing, planning and implementing projects with individuals and/or organizations, programming budgets and performance management, concerts and more.

She is a doctoral student at the Music Department at New Bulgarian University (NBU) since 2013.

The dissertation submitted to me for review is in large volume - 424 pages. It consists of an introduction, 5 chapters (each with 2 or 3 major sub-chapters), a conclusion, a description of the contributions of the dissertation (9 in total) and a list of cited literature (print and digital) with an impressive total of 307 bibliographic references, of which 33 are in Cyrillic (29 in Bulgarian and 4 in Russian) and 274 in Latin (in English).

The text is meaningful, syntactic, grammatical and has correct punctuation – it was a pleasure to read! Congratulations to both the doctoral student Svetlina Terzieva-Angelova and her scientific adviser prof. Elisaveta Valchinova-Chendova.

A dissertation that could also be defended for the degree of Doctor of Science. But it was written under the guidance and program of a "little doctor". In today's ugly, scary (both as a degree and as morality) and mercilessly commercialized life, I would recommend the doctoral

student as a "small" dissertation to defend the first 2 chapters of this dissertation (sufficient as material), and subsequently the whole dissertation in its current form for the degree of "big doctor". But not only through the prism of the parameters of today's commercial life: I write this quite seriously from a scientific point of view. While a small dissertation should show that the doctoral student has advanced and specialized in developing her scientific text, but her work is dedicated to a single issue/ problem, in the large dissertation there should already be panoramic (if possible multidimensional) view and, based on it, a conceptual analysis, which can already be found in the current doctoral thesis. But this is all in the past.

The first chapter of the dissertation is devoted to issues related to music education at school and its relation with the physiology, perception and mental, emotional and creative reactions of children and their success in classes and communication with each other, depending on their character and social groups. Music also benefits communication and collaboration between children from different linguistic cultures.

The second chapter deals with the history and practice, patterns and policies of youth orchestras in England (for example, the National Plan for England, which does not include Scotland, Ireland and Wales) and in the USA. It is tracked by period, national framework and institutional stakeholders involved, both in and out of school. The thesis examines the financing, real-life implementation, development, achievements, difficulties and prospects of these models.

The third chapter presents the Venezuelan El Sistema (music education and work and playing in an orchestra for children, with support in the role of teachers, families, community, assistance for the poor, in order to create high criteria for art, culture, discipline, team work, etc: a subject that I was personally interested in and in the beginning of 2017 I dedicated hours and days of interest, research, publication (also available in the doctoral student's bibliography: <https://yavorkonov.alle.bg/семинари/магически-музичизъм-и-ел-система/>). The chapter also looks at El Sistema in its native Venezuela, but also in the UK and the US, which is where the idea was also adopted and implemented.

Chapter four is devoted to the situation in Bulgaria: music as part of school education (general, specialized, professional), issues related to ethnic minorities, specialized youth centers, community centers, various types of funding for these activities are also discussed. The practices of youth orchestras in Bulgaria are also presented.

The next, fifth chapter is related to the fourth, and to all others - and concludes from them: chapter five is the culmination of the dissertation, in terms of authorship as well: on the basis of everything researched, systematized and presented, the doctoral student offers possible applications of existing worldwide (and studied by the doctoral student) models and practices for creating, operating and developing youth orchestras in our country. Based on historical, socio-cultural and institutional-programmatic analysis and programs based on it. It offers 7 pilot programs, planned specifically for the current conditions and institutions in our country. I hope that these come true!

So the dissertation submitted to me for review is, as I have already explicitly stated, a sufficiently meaningful study that exceeds at times the usual parameters for this educational and scientific degree ("small doctor"). This is both scientifically and scientifically applicable.

The goals and objectives of the dissertation are precisely formulated (and its object and subject, see pages 9-11 of the dissertation).

The long-standing activities of the doctoral student Terzieva-Angelova, her participation in conferences and our talks there make me believe that her dissertation is her personal creation. Of course, I do not detract from the merits of her scientific adviser Prof. Ph.D. E. Valchinova-Chendova.

The degree of knowledge, of the doctoral student, of the material presented in the dissertation is more than excellent - and not only in terms of quality, but also in terms of the volume of information (sought, found, selected, and studied, comprehended, systematized, presented with author's comment and contributions).

The correctness in quoting those included in the dissertation text (included with facts and / or reflections) is present.

A theoretical model of the research is available and developed, namely in the form of the doctoral student's model for the development of orchestral practices in Bulgaria (based on leading world practices presented in the dissertation): in general education schools, as well as in Music Profiles and Specialists. Respectively, I consider the methodology of the research to be appropriate to the goals and tasks set for it.

I accept the doctoral student's contributions at the end of her dissertation (9 in total - see pp. 403-404), the latter being particularly valuable. I have already written about the theoretical knowledge, scientific approaches and opportunities for independent scientific research demonstrated through the dissertation above.

The abstract (in volume of 36 pages) sufficiently presents the dissertation.

The doctoral student's publications related to her dissertation are as follows:

1. Terzieva-Angelova, S. (2014) The benefits of ensemble and orchestra activities for the cognitive, psychological and social development of young people. The experience of the Venezuelan El Sistema. - In: Young Scientific Forum for Music and Dance 2013. Sofia, NBU.
2. Terzieva-Angelova, S. (2015) Practices and models of children and educational concerts of orchestras in the USA and England. - In: Young Scientific Forum for Music and Dance 2014. Sofia, NBU.
3. Terzieva-Angelova, S. (2017) The Venezuelan El Sistema Program - Music or Social Innovation. - In: Young Scientific Forum for Music and Dance 2016. Sofia, NBU.

4. Terzieva-Angelova, S. (2018) Distribution of the Venezuelan El Sistema Music and Education Program in the United States and England. - In: Young Scientific Forum for Music and Dance 2017. Sofia, NBU.
5. Terzieva-Angelova, S. (2019) The Reforms in Music Education in England in the Period 1988 - 2012 as a Model for a Successful Cultural and Educational Strategy. - In: Young Science Forum for Music and Dance 2018. Sofia, NBU.
6. Terzieva-Angelova, S. (2019) Model for the construction and development of youth symphony orchestras in Bulgaria. - In: Young Scientific Forum for Music and Dance 2019. Sofia, NBU (in press).

I know all of these both as reports presented live and publications, because I have attended the conference and participated in the preparation of their printing. These are quality publications.

I have no data on their use and citation by other authors.

The author's personal attributes

I know barely the doctoral student Svetlina Terzieva-Angelova (we are not close), we have met at conferences, I have listened to her reports and her answers to questions, and we have talked briefly. I was impressed by a well-educated colleague with professional music and organizational experience, with extensive knowledge.

I will not make further opinions, recommendations or comments.

CONCLUSION: on the basis of the above, I am convinced that Svetlina Ilieva TERZIEVA-ANGELOVA (holder of Master's degree), should be awarded a Doctoral degree on the basis of her dissertation " YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS - WORLD AND NATIONAL PRACTICES AND MODELS " (Sofia, NBU, 2019).

Sofia, October 07, 2019

(Prof. Dr. Yavor Konov)