

EXPERT OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Milena Shushulova-Pavlova, Lecturer at New Bulgarian University, Department of Music
- Professional Degree 8.3 Music and Dance,

scientific specialty Musicology and Music (05.08.02)

for the dissertation of

SVETLINA ILIEVA TERZIEVA-ANGELOVA

PhD student at NBU, Department of Music - Sofia,

on the topic:

YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS - WORLD AND NATIONAL PRACTICES AND MODELS

for the award of educational and scientific degree "DOCTOR"

in professional direction 8.3 Music and Dance,

scientific specialty Musicology and Music (05.08.02)

Applicant's biography

Svetlina Ilieva Terzieva - Angelova completed her Master's degree in Cultural Management at the Department of Public Administration at the New Bulgarian University in the period 2010- 2012. Before that (1986-1991), she received a diploma for a Master's degree in violin from the National Academy of Music "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov ". Since 2013, she is a PhD student in the Doctoral Program in Music at the Department of Music at New Bulgarian University. From July 1, 2016, to January 30, 2017, she acted as the director of the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra. In the period 5.01.2015 - 30.06.2016, she was the director of Creative Management at the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra. From 09.01.2012 to 12.20.2014, Svetlina was the director of the Fortissimo Family program. Since March 1, 2003, in addition to all the above, she also acted as orchestral artist and soloist at the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra. In addition, she is a licensed mediator, and communicates with foreign soloists, conductors, artists, companies, embassies. She works effectively in a team. She is active in the planning, coordination, management and administration of people and organizations. Manages budgets as well as large groups of people in the cultural field. She is a specialist in the creation of creative products - concerts, performances, and others.

PUBLICATIONS on the topic of the dissertation

Svetlina Terzieva-Angelova presents **six publications** on the topic of her dissertation:

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 System. - In: Young Scientific Forum for Music and Dance 2013. Sofia, NBU.
2. Terzieva-Angelova, S. (2015) Practices and models of children's 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) Dissemination 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 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).

The publications prove the seriousness and scientific commitment of the doctoral student to the topic of the dissertation. They are sufficient to promote theoretical development and arouse public interest.

The dissertation entitled “ The YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA - WORLD AND NATIONAL PRACTICES AND MODELS” was discussed and proposed for defense on June 24, 2019 at a meeting of the NBU Department of Music. The text consists of an introduction, five chapters, a conclusion and cited literature, a total of 424 pages. The cited literature includes 308 titles, 34 of which are in Cyrillic and 274 in Latin.

Significance of the problem under research

The dissertation examines the increasing worrying statistics that show that most young people in Bulgaria grow up in unprivileged conditions, drop out of school early, are unable to enter the labor market due to lack of qualifications and inability to integrate into society. The dissertation presents the experiences of Venezuela, England and the USA, which have achieved remarkable results in involving young people through musical and orchestral activities not only in the music arts but also in social and social values. In the course of the study preparation, the doctoral student found another important problem - the ever-decreasing number of children and young people playing orchestral musical instruments in Bulgaria. This fact threatens the reproduction of professional orchestras in Bulgaria. Due to the importance of this issue, the present text proposes new forms of group music activities for Bulgaria. Implementation will allow the education of a large number of school-age children and create the conditions for the emergence of many youth groups across the country. The subject of the dissertation is the Youth Symphony Orchestras in Bulgaria and around the world, in particular in England, the USA and Venezuela. The subject of the study is the diverse practices of these compositions, which, if adapted to local opportunities and conditions, could serve as a model, as well as create a basis for the development of amateur music in Bulgaria, which has always been the soil on which high professional art grows.

Formulation of the goals and objectives of the thesis

The purpose and objectives of the study are to identify practices and models that could revitalize youth symphony orchestras in Bulgaria through engaging young people to become involved in music. The achievement of these happen through the following tasks: First, to review articles in some of the most respected scientific publications that prove indisputably the numerous academic, cognitive, creative, social and emotional benefits of playing a musical instrument and participating in orchestras activities (Chapter One). Second, outline some aspects of education systems and policies that support music education in the US and England, as well as the activities of foundations and associations that support the development of youth orchestras in these countries (Chapter Two). Third, to describe the practices of youth symphony orchestras in England and the USA (Chapter Two). Fourth, to describe and analyze the interesting and insufficiently known for Bulgaria music education practices of the widely known Venezuelan system for the development of youth orchestras - El Sistema (Chapter Three). Fifth, to present some of the orchestral programs created in the US and England (Chapter Three). Sixth, an attempt should be made to comprehensively review the model of music education set by the Pre-school and School Education Act of 2016, as well as the historical and contemporary practices of youth symphony orchestras in Bulgaria in order to extract and retain valuable experience and knowledge that have accumulated over the years. Seventh, the information should be structured and analyzed on the basis of the collected materials to summarize world and national practices and

models, and to bring out those good examples that could in future be a model for the development of youth orchestra work in our country. Extremely ambitious thesis, which the author scientifically proves and for which she seeks solutions at national and institutional level.

Degree of knowledge of the problem and relevance of the literature used

The study is thorough and sufficiently serious and large-scale. It argues that orchestral activities are extremely useful for the academic, cognitive, social and emotional growth of young people, can revitalize, expand and enrich with practical creative activities the music education in Bulgaria, as well as contribute to social inclusion and social inclusion, transforming young people at risk as part of a coherent and sustainable strategy for social and cultural development. The new Pre-school and School Education Act of 2016 provides opportunities for children in Bulgaria to receive more fully up-to-date music education through the introduction of group training in musical instruments, as well as in specialized schools and specialized schools of culture. opportunities for ensemble and orchestral activities by introducing the experience of the English National Music Education Plan and El Venezuelan elements of the program. The following basic methods were used to accomplish the goals and solve the research objectives: research, citation of research and practice, description, analysis, interpretation of the information collected, synthesis and model creation. The text is based on a large body of literature. The first chapter cites mainly articles published in authoritative scientific journals - American Journal of Education, Journal of Research in Music Education, Psychology of Music, British Journal of Music Education, Science, Music Educators Journal, and more, in English, Russian and Bulgarian languages, concerning the impact of music and orchestral activities on young people. The second and third chapters are based on regulations, reports and program material from governments and government agencies involved in music education in England, the United States and Venezuela; articles from websites; theses from English and American universities; books in English. Chapter four and chapter five are normative documents such as the Pre-school and School Education Act of 2016 and MES regulations, as well as monographs and articles by prominent Bulgarian scholars which relate directly or indirectly to the topics covered, internet sources in Bulgarian and others.

Presence of grounded and developed theoretical model of the research

The most important part of this dissertation is Chapter Five, which summarizes the described practices and models of youth orchestras in Venezuela, England, and the United States and offers a new model of up-and-coming music education. The little-known new theory of human motivation by Harvard scientists Lawrence and Norias is also presented, which supports the idea of orchestral activities as a way of satisfying the natural impulses that drive human behavior. After analyzing the Bulgarian educational system in its variants, the doctoral student proves her thesis about the possibilities for implementing the experience of the British Plan for National Music Education and the experience of In Harmony Sistema England, due to the openness and flexibility of the new Law of 2016 in our country for initiatives that promote the development of students. The conceptual design of the Model for the Development of Youth Symphony Orchestras in Bulgaria, offered by Svetlina Terzieva-Angelova, is based on the experience of the British National Plan for Music Education and elements of the Venezuelan El Sistema program. It implies the introduction of a methodology for group training in musical instruments. Its implementation will allow the education of a large number of school-age children and create the conditions for the emergence of numerous youth groups across the country. The model makes specific recommendations for various aspects of orchestral activities such as: age of participants, conducting rehearsals, repertoire, schemes for providing instruments, concert activity, conducting master classes, seminars and summer camps, participation in festivals. An essential factor for the success of the programs will be their adaptability to local circumstances - depending on the context, the focus may be on the personal benefits of the musical activities or on the achievement of social results through the achievement of musical achievements. The PhD student recommends that

pilot projects be carefully monitored to identify and explore their main advantages and strengths. The success of the pilot programs would allow the spread of music training across the country.

Quality adolescent programs can lead to improvements in their educational attainment, emotional and behavioral well-being. They form healthy habits, good decision-making skills, successful educational experiences and strong relationships with family and friends. Orchestral activities provide access for children to successful adult behavioral models; support their focus on achievement and self-efficacy; provide an opportunity to practice self-regulation; offer support for warm and effective peer relationships; develop connection within and around the family with the formal and informal social groups that surround it. By observing the benefits of co-practicing music, over time young people begin to consider it a fundamental necessity and a fundamental human right.

Accurateness in quoting a representative number of authors

Svetlina Ilieva Terzieva-Angelova is an accurate scholar who has a broad overview at a rich bibliography and sources: 308 titles, 34 of which are in Cyrillic and 274 in Latin. I would say that one of the most valuable things in work is the doctoral student's personal experience, personal meetings and trips outside Bulgaria to the countries discussed, personal observations and interactions with the younger generation and its attitude towards the musical ensemble in Bulgaria.

The scholar's unique contribution

The following points may be cited as contributions of the dissertation to science:

1. For the first time in Bulgaria a sufficiently comprehensive sample of scientific studies is presented, covering the academic, cognitive, creative, social and emotional impacts of playing a musical instrument and participating in a musical ensemble.
2. Information on music education policies in England for the period 1988 - 2018, activities of the English Music Education Hubs and practices of youth orchestras operating in different areas of England and implementing alternative options for orchestral adaptation are presented.
3. Policies and activities of US institutions supporting music education are explored as well as an attempt to build a new and contemporary model of music education in Bulgaria is made.
4. The doctoral student's observations on the practices of youth orchestras in Los Angeles and Orange County have been described and studied. Some of the information has been gathered through interviews with the leaders of these teams, which I find particularly helpful.
5. Interesting and little known for Bulgaria music education practices of the Venezuelan system for the development of El Sistema youth orchestras and the orchestra programs established in the USA and England have been described and analysed.
6. A comprehensive review of the model for music education set by the Pre-school and School Education Act of 2016 has been made, which provides new opportunities for upgrading musical instrument training and orchestral playing in Bulgarian public schools.
7. The possibilities for orchestral activities outside the school system were also considered within the following: envisaged support for personal development of children and students, integration of children and students from ethnic minorities, youth information and counseling centers, targeted financial support for regional cultural activities, projects and events in the field of amateur art, community centers.
8. Historical and contemporary practices of youth symphony orchestras in Bulgaria (Children-Youth Philharmonic "Pioneer" and Youth Philharmonic "Sofia") are presented in order to extract and preserve the valuable experience and knowledge that has been accumulated over the years.

9. On the basis of good foreign practices, a conceptual design of an original Model for the construction and development of youth symphony orchestras in Bulgaria is presented. It implies the introduction of a methodology for group training in musical instruments, which is little known in Bulgaria and is used only in few private educational centers. Its effect is considered as an opportunity for the revival of youth orchestra art in Bulgaria.

Assessment of the correspondence of the abstract with the basic principles and contributions of the dissertation.

The abstract corresponds to the dissertation and correctly communicates the character of the scientific text of the doctoral thesis.

Author's personal attributes (if known to the reviewer)

I know enough Svetlina Terzieva-Angelova. She is consistent, hard-working, responsible, deals with problems on a large scale and in depth. The work on the topic is huge. The samples made are of great importance in general for the development of music culture and education in Bulgaria. I strongly recommend that this work be printed and continued with further activities that I would fully support. Congratulations on the success of the PhD student and her scientific supervisor - Prof. Elisaveta Valchinova-Chendova, Ph.D.

Opinions, recommendations and notes: None

In conclusion, I will conclude with the following assessment:

Svetlina Ilieva Terzieva-Angelova's dissertation work "YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS - WORLD AND NATIONAL PRACTICES AND MODELS" and its scientific qualities, together with the student's activities, appearances, performances, and contributions inform my positive assessment and I would suggest to the distinguished scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in Professional Field 8.3 Music and dance, under scientific category "Musicology and musical art" (05.08.02) to Svetlina Terzieva-Angelova, according to the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

19.9.2019
Sofia

Prof. Dr. Milena Shushuleva -Pavlova