

## REVIEW

by

Prof Penka Ilieva Marcheva, PhD

of dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree “**Doctor**”

Professional field **1.3 Teaching Pedagogy in...**

Doctoral program: **Methodology of Music Teaching**

Author: **Anastasiya Ivanova Batkova**

Title: ***Pedagogical technologies for building singing skills in children aged from 7 to 10 years in an extracurricular vocal group***

Academic supervisor: Prof Tsvetanka Kolovska, PhD

### **General presentation of the procedure and the materials received for review**

The dissertation work of Anastasiya Batkova is referred for defense by the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy of Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts "Prof Asen Diamandiev" - Plovdiv. The submitted documentation shows that all the requirements of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations for the acquisition of scientific degrees in the aforementioned educational institution have been complied with. No violations were found in the course of the procedure. The dissertation, as well as the scientific publications, cover the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of DASRBA and the corresponding normative base from the Regulations for implementation of DASRBA of AMDFA. The abstract adequately and comprehensively reflects the content of the dissertation work. The published materials are directly related to its topic and present essential aspects of the theoretical content and research work contained therein.

### **Brief biographical data of the candidate**

Anastasiya Batkova is a graduate of National School of Music and Dance "Dobrin Petkov" Plovdiv and AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" Plovdiv. Her professional qualifications, obtained in her Bachelor's and Master's program, are directly oriented to music pedagogy, which logically lead to her enrolment as a full-time doctoral student at AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" Plovdiv in the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting in 2019 and her graduation with the right of defense in December 2022. The research part of her dissertation is supported by the candidate's professional career as a **vocal pedagogue** in the Art Voice Center Association Plovdiv and **music teacher and conductor of choirs** at NSMD "Dobrin Petkov" Plovdiv.

### **Relevance of the topic**

The relevance of the problems discussed in the dissertation stems from the permanence of the

process related to the development of the young student's singing skills. In the time after the COVID-pandemic, it seems that the opportunities for live music in different formats and especially in that of the vocal group are being sought out even more. My observations show that almost every school strives to create and develop a similar form of extracurricular activity, and out-of-school activities are even more popular. For this reason, the proposed dissertation has a high level of practical applicability, and its publication as a book can serve as useful reading for vocal pedagogues working in this direction.

### **Expediency of the research methods used to achieve the set goals**

Examining the design of the research part shows that the objective and the tasks are formulated precisely and reflect the feasibility of the experimental activity conducted. The selection of the used methods logically leads to the construction of a solid argumentation for the defense of the hypothesis. It has been consistently demonstrated that the specifically defined objective and the resulting tasks have been achieved.

### **Evaluation of the dissertation work**

The dissertation developed by Anastasiya Batkova is distinguished by logic and consistency in the construction of the exhibition. All the norms for constructing a scientific text of this kind have been observed. The dissertation consists of 150 pages of main text, contributions, bibliography and appendices.

Structurally, it meets the requirements for the development of a similar type of scientific product. The main text contains an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion. Each of the mentioned elements is characterized by consistency, completeness and logical connection.

The precise handling of terminology makes an extremely good impression. The design of the dissertation work is already stated in its introductory part and contains a clearly formulated objective, tasks, hypothesis, subject and object.

The **theoretical part** thoroughly examines and substantiates the main concepts forming the topic of the presented scientific work. The necessary attention is given to each of them, namely - the vocal group in the extracurricular activity, specifics of the singing activity and the related skills in the specified format, musical abilities, artistry, physiological components of vocal development, singing in the vocal group as a factor for work on intonation, vocal range and musical ability. The author refers to a sufficient number of respected scientific sources. The exposition is coherent and clearly structured, the citations are precise.

The **research part** of the dissertation is an experiment that was conducted systematically and purposefully. The organization and conduct of the research refer to clearly formulated criteria and indicators. It unfolds in the classic stages inherent in the pedagogical experimental activity, which was conducted with a vocal group of eight children of primary-school age. Clearly formulated research methods are the basis for conducting a full-fledged pedagogical study. Observations from each stage

of the experimental work are described and recorded in detail and consistently. Purposefully and on the basis of sufficient arguments, the author proves that the proposed complex pedagogical technology, aimed at the formation of singing skills, musical abilities and artistic skills of the participants in the vocal group, is working, applicable and effective. The detailed description of each part of the experimental activity is proof of the in-depth music-pedagogical preparation of the doctoral candidate Anastasiya Batkova and of the purposefulness and consistency she possesses as personal qualities that play a key role in the research activity as a whole, which is an integral and continuous occupation. Interesting are the interactive methods used in the experiment, such as Sing with a Pencil, Singing Without Voice, Dance and Rhythm, Musical Row, etc. (p. 123-124). The entire complex of pedagogical technologies bears the marks of a well-organized author's system for working in a children's vocal group. The quantitative and qualitative analysis of the obtained results is illustrated with informative tables and diagrams. The development of each of the studied structures - singing skills, musical abilities and artistic skills - has been followed consistently and in detail. The conclusions drawn from the conducted experimental activity (p.143-146) present its essence and prove in a synthesized form both its applicability and the protection and argumentation of the research hypothesis.

#### **Contributions and significance of the thesis and the relevant publications**

The defined scientific contributions present the key theoretical and practical-applied achievements of the research activity of the author Anastasiya Batkova.

#### **Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical notes. My recommendation is publishing the text of the dissertation. I think it would be useful, especially if it is adapted as a methodical reading, because until now there is none related to researched problematics.

#### **Abstract**

The content of the abstract adequately and fully presents the content of the dissertation. The main points of both the theoretical study and the research part of the question put into focus in the scientific work developed by Anastasiya Batkova are presented.

#### **Conclusion**

The presented dissertation enriches the modern methodology for building singing skills in working with children between the age of 7 and 10 years through music-pedagogical activity in an extracurricular vocal group. The proposed approach, based on an independently developed and tested pedagogical model for vocal work with young students, is of proven expediency and effectiveness.

**In conclusion**, I confidently propose to the respected Scientific Jury **to award Anastasiya Ivanova Batkova** the educational and scientific degree "**doctor**" in professional field **1.3 Teaching Pedagogy in...** scientific specialty Methodology of Music Teaching.

18.09.2023

Prof Penka Marcheva, PhD