

OPINION

by

Prof Ermila Schweitzer, PhD

NMA „Prof Pancho Vladigerov”

on the dissertation of

Dai Liping

full-time doctoral student

Professional field 1.3 Teaching Pedagogy in...

Doctoral program: Methodology of Music Teaching

at the Department of Music Pedagogy and Conducting

AMDFFA “Prof Asen Diamandiev”

Academic supervisor: Prof Tsvetanka Kolovska, PhD

on topic:

ANALYSIS OF THE MUSIC EDUCATION IN THE CHINESE SCHOOLS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE ETHNIC MINORITIES

for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

On the grounds of a decision of the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy dated 18.12.2023, to open a procedure for the defense of the dissertation work of Dai Liping, I was provided with the following materials: CV of the candidate, dissertation work, abstract, a reference to the contribution nature of the dissertation, list of publications on the topic.

Brief biographical data for the candidate:

Dai Liping is a lecturer at the College of Music and Dance of Daqing University in Heilongjiang Province. She is a member of a number of professional unions and associations - China Music Education Committee, Heilongjiang Province Pianists Association, and Daqing Musicians Association. In 2011, she receives Master's degree at Harbin University, Department of Music. Mrs. Dai teaches a wide range of subjects: music analysis, piano, fundamentals of music theory, introduction to art, singing and musical hearing, history of western music, etc. She is a recipient of numerous awards: she has won twice the first prize in the College Teaching Competitions, twice the Outstanding College Teaching Award, and she has received an excellent mark in 100% of her certification tests. She is the author of two books, one textbook and many scientific articles.

The presented research is relevant with its subject matter, dedicated to the evolution of the ideas about the music education in the Chinese high, middle and elementary schools. The author sets as the goal of her work, by analyzing and summarizing the current state of music education, to identify the problems and the shortcomings that arise in practice, as well as the promotion and the development of the ethnic music in the Chinese music education.

The research methods include survey of numerous sources, reading of the existing literature on the subject in China, related to the emergence and the development of the ethnic music education. The author has conducted interviews with school administrators, music teachers, experts, in order to gather information about the current situation and the implementation of reforms in music education. Through the method of analysis and synthesis, the collected information is examined, the actual educational practical activities are summarized and an attempt is made to refine them into general and systematic empirical theories, with the aim of offering innovative perspectives.

Dai Liping's dissertation is a serious analytical study, including a systematic review of the development of music education in China from the ancient times to the present state in elementary, middle, and high schools. The author traces the evolution of the idea of music education, starting with Confucius and his "*ritual spirit Li and music*" (p.10), i.e. through music the student should be enlightened so as to cultivate his own feelings. In the first chapter, the author dwells on the activities of Kang Youwei (1858-1927), who was the first reformer who advocated school music education, following the example of Germany and Japan. She introduces us to other important personalities who contributed to the development of music education - Wang Guowei, Cai Yuanpei - the founder of the "music pedagogy" specialty, Xiao Youmei, etc. The author examines the periods after the founding of the PRC and the defeats of the so-called a "cultural revolution" that stopped the development of music education, followed by the opening of the country to the world and the entry of Western aesthetic educational models.

The candidate provides an overview of the music education in the higher schools and examines some characteristic features of the existing eleven conservatories in China. She thoroughly analyzes the advantages and disadvantages in the learning process and offers solutions for specific problems. Special attention is paid to the music of ethnic minorities and the danger of its diversity disappearing. Strategies for integrating ethnic minority music into the music education are proposed to safeguard this national treasure.

In a separate chapter, the problem of the music education in primary and secondary schools is considered. The importance of including folk music in the educational process in order to preserve the traditional culture is emphasized and concrete strategies are proposed: creating courses on traditional folk music, new teaching methods, combining classroom and extracurricular activities. The author pleads for a balanced model of music education that skilfully combines multicultural trends with traditional musical heritage.

The contributions of the work are formulated by the author in two directions – theoretical and practical. The theoretical part includes an in-depth study of the development of the music education in China, and the practical – ideas for its improvement.

The publications on the subject of the dissertation work are sufficient and testify to a serious research interest and professional experience of the author. The submitted abstract corresponds to the dissertation.

Dai Liping's dissertation is a thorough analytical study, with emphasized practical value, detailed analyzes and well-formulated conclusions. Based on everything that has been said so far, I propose to the respected scientific jury to award Dai Liping the scientific educational degree "Doctor" in professional field 1.3 Teaching Pedagogy in...

Sofia, 22.04.2024

Prof Ermila Schweitzer, PhD