

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof Georgi Metev Petkov, PhD

Department of Music, NBU,

Professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art

for the doctoral dissertation

of

DENITSA DIMITROVA VASILEVA

on the topic:

THE BULGARIAN FOLK SONG AND ITS CONTEMPORARY INTERPRETATION

for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

Professional field: 8.3. Music and Dance Art

Scientific supervisor: Prof Kostadin Buradzhiev

The dissertation contains 117 standard pages and includes introduction, literary review, and three chapters with analysis, musical examples and conclusion. The bibliography indicates 79 titles of cited literature. The list of author's publications consists of three titles that are related to the topic. The appendix includes six DVDs with video recording of the six concerts performed in the period 2017 - 2021, as well as the relevant protocols to them with opinions of lecturers from the Department of Music Folklore of Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts "Prof Asen Diamandiev" Plovdiv, presented in the documentation to the research.

Denitsa Vasileva's artistic biography shows her connection with the folk song since her childhood. After completing his higher education at AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" Plovdiv, in 2009 she started working in the Folk Choir and the Folklore Ensemble of the Academy. The candidate has experience as a teacher of folk singing and as a concert soloist /folk singer/ in several ensembles with concerts in Bulgaria and abroad, as well as recordings with the Folk Music Orchestra at the Bulgarian National Radio. The chosen topic of the research is closely related to her professional and practical work as an active singer and teacher of folk singing.

The dissertation entitled *The Bulgarian Folk Song and its Contemporary Interpretation* is a good attempt to outline the path of the contemporary on-stage development of the folk song. A particularly important contribution of the work is that until now there was no generalized study that traces especially the development of the solo folk song and the changes in its interpretation, as a whole, and not only by regions.

The **object** of the work is the Bulgarian folk song. The **subject** of the research is the contemporary interpretation of Bulgarian folk songs. The **objective** - to scientifically systematize and analyze some features in the development of the folk song, is achieved largely through the theoretical and practical implementation of the tasks. The main methods used in the theoretical part of the doctoral program are

analysis, comparison and synthesis. In the brief literature review, the author systematizes information from various theoretical sources from which the relevant conclusions are derived. She presents the main factors that influenced the development of the folk song in the twentieth century and studies the relevant interpretive innovations in the folk song.

The doctoral candidate has analyzed and pointed out popular and emblematic song examples showing the way and the stages in the changes of the folk songs according to different time periods, as well as "textbook" examples of singing creativity and original interventions by singers in the development of folk songs. The author emphasizes the importance of the genre "adopting of folk songs for folk choir" and the prominent composers that have made significant contributions to the development of the folk song as art and its professionalization. Numerous theoretical sources have been used to support the development of the hypotheses and the conclusions on the topic. Through the prism of an acting performer, the candidate presents relevant conclusions from the research and the various factors related to and affecting the issue: media, stage performance, authors of arrangements and original music based on folklore, ensembles, schools of music folklore, instrumental accompaniment, the emblematic performers of folk songs, etc. Among the "modern factors" that contributed to the development of the folk song, the candidate points out: wedding orchestras, prominent performers of folk songs from the last decades of the twentieth century, and the synthesis of folk songs with different world styles.

The studied problem is distinguished by its relevance in scientific and applied terms. The modern interpretation of the Bulgarian folk song is of interest to all who work in this field, or are lovers of musical folklore. The author, in addition to knowing in depth the problem, has realized practically six concerts as a solo performer of contemporary folk songs. In the presented 6 concerts, part of the doctoral program, which are exactly on the topic of the research, Denitsa Vasileva clearly demonstrates her own performances, illustrating current contemporary interpretive trends.

The abstract accurately reflects the structure and content of the work and emphasizes the most important points, results and conclusions of the study. The contributions are the personal work of the author and contribute to the enrichment of previous studies related to the Bulgarian folk song.

In conclusion, based on all of the above, I support the author and her dissertation, giving my positive assessment and recommending to the esteemed Scientific Jury to award Denitsa Vasileva educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the Professional field (8.3) Music and Dance Art and scientific specialty Musicology and Music Art.

Congratulations to the author and her academic supervisor Prof Kostadin Buradzhiev for the success!

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