

PEER REVIEW

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Metev Petkov, Music Department at New Bulgarian University,
Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”

**for a doctoral dissertation
of
Dimitar Hristov Hristov**

for the award of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” under Professional field 8.3
“Music and Dance Arts”

**“CONTEMPORARY TRENDS IN CONDUCTING WHEN WORKING WITH
ORCHESTRA OF FOLK INSTRUMENTS”**

Scientific adviser: Prof. Milcho Vasilev

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The topic of Dimitar Hristov’s dissertation is “*Contemporary Trends in Conducting When Working with Orchestra of Folk Instruments*”.

The doctoral thesis contains: an introduction, a theoretical review, three chapters, a conclusion, and a bibliography, with a total volume of 96 pages. The bibliography points to 87 sources related to the research issues.

I am fully acquainted with my presented work and the author’s abstract, which is 41 pages long and accurately and clearly presents the main points of the text of the dissertation and its contributions. The development is characterized by a very well-established logical sequence and completeness. The scientific text proposed to our attention has competence and creativity. The statement is accurate, clear, and legible, which makes the text usable in practice.

The content of the work shows a deep knowledge and interest of the author in the **subject of the research** “*The role of the conductor of an orchestra of folk instruments, as a prerequisite for the development of folk orchestra conducting*”.

The doctoral student has gained extensive experience as a conductor and composer of some of the most prominent professional folk groups: the ensembles “Trakiya” and “Pirin”, of which he was Chief Artistic Director in the period from 2006 until 2008. Since October 2011 he has been the Conductor of the Folk Music Orchestra of the Bulgarian National Radio. The rich, successful, and active creative activity of Dimitar Hristov is known to the music community not only in Bulgaria. The high creative achievements of the conductor are evidenced by the prestigious awards and distinctions he has won. The interest of the candidate in the subject of the

research is naturally dictated by his life and creative path. What's more, he not only knows the problem in depth, but also "lives inside it". This is not a question of choosing a suitable topic for writing "some" dissertation, but of self-reflective research, to which the experience gained by other prominent conductors of folklore ensembles is added and systematized.

The author sets a clear **goal** – to explore current trends in working with an orchestra of folk instruments and the implementation of these trends. The set **tasks** logically contribute to achieving the goal of the research. The dissertation is based on the work of the conductor of an orchestra of folk instruments, and a successful attempt was made to systematize, comprehend, and classify the scarce and scattered in various sources information related to the topic. The doctoral student sets as a priority the task of filling the gaps in such a system.

The **chosen research methodology** corresponds to the set goals and tasks. In favor of the scientific substantiation and objectivity of the research the author approaches mainly through the methods of analysis, comparison, synthesis, and interview.

The short historical information presented at the beginning of the dissertation about the origin, development, and recruitment of the orchestra of folk instruments and the presentation of prominent conductors who have made a significant contribution to this process is a kind of small textbook on the history of the folk orchestra.

A special author's contribution is the overall analysis of the work of the conductor of an orchestra of folk instruments. The paper examines the specific features of the activity of the conductor of an orchestra of folk instruments, as a functional systematization of the various conducting activities. A short analysis of the activity of bright conductors from the sector is offered, which is also a contribution to the music literature.

In the course of the exhibition, the doctoral student convincingly presents research on the facts related to the conductor's concert and recording issues from the position of an active practicing conductor. The whole complex of activities with which the conductor of an orchestra of folk instruments is charged is reflected.

The text of the dissertation is based on the citation of a large and representative number of authors of texts, theoretical and practical research on the problem, which shows the excellent knowledge of the doctoral student of the specialized literature on the topic.

All the mentioned contributions with scientific and practical and applied relation are real and successfully presented on a textual level.

The abstract accurately reflects the structure and content of the work and emphasizes the most important points, results, and conclusions of the research.

In conclusion: The presented dissertation has a serious scientific and practical value and the chosen topic is important and necessary for modern orchestral science and practice and with clear prospects for use in the education system related to musical folklore.

In the process of Dimitar Hristov's artistic doctoral studies, the obligatory six concerts related to the topic of the dissertation have been performed. The artistic component of the dissertation is highly contributed, reflected in the reference to the concert activity. It should be noted that in his capacity as conductor of the Folk Music Orchestra of the Bulgarian National

Radio, the doctoral student has performed many times more concerts and recording activities related to the research topic.

Based on all of the above, I strongly support the author and his dissertation, giving my high positive assessment.

I strongly recommend to the esteemed scientific jury to award Dimitar Hristov the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” under Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”.

Congratulations to the author and his supervisor Prof. Milcho Vasilev for the achieved success!

City of Sofia, 03.08.2020

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