

## **OPINION**

**By**

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Vocal Faculty at the National Academy of Music "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov"  
member of a scientific jury, appointed by order of the Rector of AMDFA Plovdiv No. RD -27-094 of  
25.06.2024 for the defense of Evgeniya Tagareva's dissertation work titled

### **SPECIFICITY OF THE PIANO TRAINING METHODOLOGY FOR PERSONS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN)**

Professional field 8. 3. Music and Dance Art,  
Doctoral program Music Studies and Music Art  
Academic supervisor: Prof Snezhana Simeonova  
for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor"

Evgeniya Tagareva graduated from Academy of Music, Dance and Dine Arts - Plovdiv in 1989 with a specialty of teaching piano, music and aesthetics. In 1993, she did a one-year specialization. In the period 2002-2022, she taught piano and creative literature lessons at community centre "Hristo Danov - 1904" Plovdiv, from 2007 to 2023 she organized the International Summer Art Academy "The Fire of Orpheus", master music classes, concerts, etc. She has managed a number of international musical and literary projects.

She is the author of poetry books, literary publications in Bulgarian and foreign languages, works as a translator, compiler and editor. She has published a collection of compositions for piano. Participated in various literary readings, concert performances within the Summer Art Academy "The Fire of Orpheus" She is a member of the Fire of Orpheus Foundation, the Society of Plovdiv Writers and the Union of Bulgarian Writers.

Evgeniya Tagareva's dissertation consists of 244 pages, contains introduction, six chapters, a conclusion, contributions, a list of scientific publications, three appendices.

The bibliography lists 141 titles, of which 31 are in Bulgarian and three Internet sources.

The introduction of the work indicates its main purpose, namely to systematize the already existing theoretical and practical experience in teaching piano to children with SEN and to supplement it with new, modern and up-to-date pedagogical ideas. The tasks that the doctoral student sets for herself are research and systematization of modern scientific studies in many areas of piano methodology and pedagogy related to the education of children with SEN, conducting a practical experiment, summarizing the results, analyzing their strengths and weaknesses, offering new piano

teaching methods. The object of research is indicated - children with SEN and the subject - their piano training.

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**Chapter 1** provides an overview of various modern theoretical developments and practical achievements on the subject of the dissertation. Examples of various technological solutions related to different fields of science are given. The Bulgarian experience on the subject is also presented.

**Chapter 2** describes the experiment itself, conducted with a target group divided according to different educational needs.

**Chapter 3** discusses the piano lessons for children with SEN. The teacher-student-piano relationship and their interactive communication is indicated. The special place of the piano teacher as a compensating factor is emphasized.

**Chapter 4** focuses on piano lessons for students with sensory disabilities, with the students divided into two categories – vision-impaired and hearing-impaired. The stages of training are described - from the beginning to the concert performance.

**Chapter 5 is Piano Art – an aid for the blind and vision-impaired** and contains plans for ten audio piano lessons for the blind and vision-impaired. The aid is accompanied by a sheet music application.

**Chapter 6** – Teaching piano to students with mental and motor disabilities. Here the students are characterized by their various difficulties and the process of their piano training is described.

The work is an extensive scientific study in which the long-term experience of teaching piano to children with SEN is considered. It contains theoretical and practical guidelines for children with various types of disabilities. A multidisciplinary approach is used to find concrete practical solutions. Emphasis is placed on the teacher-student relationship, individual approach and ensemble performance.

The topic of musical education for children with SEN is rare in Bulgaria, there is a lack of theoretical and methodological publications. It relies on the teacher's self-training. Evgeniya Tagareva's dissertation can become the basis for further development of new methodologies and searches.

Based on everything that has been said so far, I believe that the work definitely has a contributing theoretical and practical significance and I propose to the respected scientific jury to award the doctoral student the scientific and educational degree "DOCTOR".

Sofia, 20.09. 2024

Prof Galina Apostolova