

## OPINION

By

Prof. Galina Arkadieva Apostolova – lecturer of chamber singing at the Singing Department of the Vocal Faculty at the National Academy of Music "Prof. Pancho Vladigerov"

on the dissertation for awarding educational and scientific degree "**Doctor**" in professional field **8. 3. Music and Dance Art**, doctoral program **Music Studies and Music Art**, at the Department of Piano and Accordion of AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" with author **Huang Boyu** titled: *Characteristics and Development of the Piano Accompaniment in the Vocal Music of the Chinese Composers from the 20th century to the Present Day* with academic supervisor Prof Lyudmil Petkov

For the defense of his doctoral dissertation, the candidate has submitted the dissertation work, an abstract and a curriculum vitae.

Huang Boyu graduated with honors from Tianjin Conservatory, China in 2014. In 2015, he starts a Master's program in piano at the National Conservatory of Music in the city of Fermo, Italy, and in 2017 – in piano accompaniment. He graduates both Master's programs with honors in 2019. In 2020 he is admitted as doctoral student in piano at AMDFA - Plovdiv, where he studies with Prof Lyudmil Petkov.

The doctoral candidate knows well the specifics of the chosen topic, as he has been involved in accompanying since his school years. The topic is particularly relevant for China, as professional music there started developing relatively recently. Opera and art song were initially associated with the Western European music, but with the passage of time, they increasingly contain Chinese national elements.

Empirical, theoretical and comparative methods were used in the dissertation. Through them, a more comprehensive clarification of the role of the piano accompaniment in the various types of vocal works is sought.

The dissertation contains 190 pages, including an introduction, five chapters, a conclusion, references and appendices.

The object of the research is the piano accompaniment from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present day in three genres of Chinese vocal music: **art song, musical adaptation of classical poetry and Chinese opera.**

The first chapter discusses the Chinese art song, the second – the art songs based on the text of the classical Chinese poets, the third chapter – the Chinese opera. The author gives examples of these genres and points the specific differences in the piano accompaniment for each of them. All three chapters examine the chronology of the development – from the birth of the genres, through the

opposition of "old" and "modern" in the period of development to a new rise and synthesis in recent years.

The fourth chapter is a conclusion with certain deductions on the initial goals and objectives. It discusses the path of the piano accompaniment from the initial imitation of the Western European songs to its renewal with various Chinese elements – rhythmic changes, enrichment of harmony, change of the tonal center or atonality, use of a modal chromatic system characteristic of the Chinese folk music, etc.

The dissertation summarizes the development of the piano accompaniment in China over the last 100 years and its practical application in three main areas – art song, adaptation of ancient poems and Chinese opera.

The analysis of different types of piano textures in the piano accompaniment has great practical application in the performance of professional Chinese music. I think it will be useful for the future piano students who will specialize in piano accompaniment.

The research contributes to the development of the cultural ties between China and Bulgaria, on the one hand, and the places of the professional Chinese music in world music culture, on the other.

All of these contributions of the candidate are a foundation for serious research on further topics related to piano accompaniment as well.

Huang Boyu has three publications on the subject – one in the 2020 yearbook of AMDFA and two - in the AMDFA collection Spring Annual Readings - 2022.

Considering everything stated above, I can say that I propose to the respected scientific jury to award the scientific and educational degree "Doctor" in professional field 8.3, Music and Dance Art to the candidate Huang Boyu.

Sofia, 28.09. 2023,

Prof Galina Apostolova, PhD