

OPINION

by Prof Petya Bagovska, PhD, on

DISSERTATION WORK

for awarding educational and scientific degree
"Doctor"

titled:

Historical Aspects in the Development of the Chinese Violin Art in the Period 1919 – 2008

by Yihan Gao

Professional field: 8. 3. Music and Dance Art

Doctoral program: Music Studies and Musical Art

AMDFA Prof Asen Diamandiev – Plovdiv

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Yihan Gao's dissertation is structured into four chapters, an introduction and a conclusion. Sources with a rich bibliography have been published and several publications on the subject have been made in certified editions. In addition, discographies of significant names in the Chinese instrumental violin art are listed.

In chronological order, the candidate comprehensively traces the historical prerequisites for the development of the violin art in China – schools, literature, performers and pedagogues.

Socio-economic processes and dynamics of major political events have been consistently analyzed, as well as their role in growth and stagnation in certain periods, which undoubtedly reflects on the overall development process of the educational and cultural environment in China.

The author consistently analyzes the socio-economic processes and the dynamics of major political events, as well as their role in the growth and stagnation in certain periods, which undoubtedly has affected the overall development process of the educational and cultural environment in China.

The periods before the Cultural Revolution from 1949 to 1966 and after it from 1966 to 1979, as well as the period up to 2008, are examined in detail.

A constructive analysis of educational reforms, formation of instructional literature and creation of institutes was made. The results, experiences and contributions of various European schools, practices and educators are also mentioned, as well as the influence of universities from Europe, Japan and the USA.

The historical aspects of the processes outlined by the candidate, determine the development of the Chinese violin art and help to better understand the interaction and the exchange between China and the achievements of Western culture.

The establishment of educational institutes and higher music colleges, such as the Central Conservatory of Music, established in 1949 and the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, renamed in 1956 to the National Conservatory of Music, as well as the Beijing Conservatory of Music since 1964 had a significant impact on formation of modern contemporary education system in China.

The author also presents the contributions of significant Chinese musicians - founders of contemporary art, educators and performers such as Dai Qilong, Xiao Yumei, Ma Sicong and Tang Shuzhen, who played a decisive role in the progressive growth of musical culture in China. The interaction of the classical instruments, particularly the violin, and its integration into the curriculum alongside traditional Chinese musical instruments is emphasized.

Many Western musicians are impressed by the colour of the Chinese folk music. Such is the example of the creation of the piece for violin and piano *Tambourin Chinois* by the famous Austrian violinist Fritz Kreisler. Based on a Chinese song and dance form set to the music of the *Colour Drum Opera*, the piece is still performed around the world today. A thorough analysis of the work is made and its importance for the violin performance art is emphasized.

Contributions of educators such as Ma Sicong, Tang Shuzhen, Zhang Yang, who created teaching materials, formed teaching methods and standards, and raised the standards of the vocational training in China, are cited.

An important role is also played by Chen Yuxin - concertmaster of a festival orchestra in Shanghai, who wrote basic literature and "Scales and technical exercises for the violin".

The doctoral student introduces us to the contemporary performing arts of China, where more and more composers are creating new works, conservatories and schools are being built with complementary subjects and musical disciplines.

Yihan Gao provides a historical reading of events, publishes detailed biographies, and makes detailed analyses of theoretical methods and violin fiction produced in China.

The merits of Lin Yao Ji 1937-2009, Zheng Shishen-1936-2014, who were teachers to outstanding performers are highlighted.

Enclosed are contributions of world importance, such as laureates of competitions - Lu Siqing - gold medal at the Paganini competition - Genoa 1986, Hu Kun, Hin Feng and others.

The work is richly illustrated with photographs and musical examples. Summaries of the contributions have been made, which I would point out in several directions: systematic arrangement of the material, encyclopedic knowledge of the processes, detailed description of the development of the educational system in China, analyzes and the influence of Western culture and its importance in the overall construction of modern violin art in China.

I attest that the dissertation work is contributory and meets the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA). I propose to the esteemed scientific jury that Yihan Gao be awarded the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in professional direction 8.3 Music and Dance Art.

26.03.2024

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