

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof Nikolina Simeonova Kroteva
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Regarding dissertation work for awarding educational and scientific degree “Doctor”
Professional field 8.3. *Music and Dance Art*,
doctoral program Music Studies and Music Art.

Author: Nadezhda Simeonova Petrova

Title: Development of the piano accompaniment of folk songs

Academic supervisor: Prof Kostadin Buradzhiev. PhD

This Opinion was prepared according to Order No 049 of 07.05.2022 of the Rector of AMDFA “Prof Asen Diamandiev” – Plovdiv, Prof Toni Shekerdzhieva-Novak and after the decision of the Scientific Jury, in connection with the opening of a procedure for the defense of the dissertation work *Development of the piano accompaniment of folk songs* by Nadezhda Simeonova Petrova, doctoral student individual form of studies.

I. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral candidate

The set of documents presented by Nadezhda Simeonova Petrova includes a dissertation, an abstract, a list of publications and CV. The materials are correctly and precisely prepared in accordance with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria

The education and professional career of Nadezhda Petrova explain her interest in the specific problems that she encounters in the process of working with singers. In 2013 she becomes a full-time accompanist at the department of Musical Folklore and has the opportunity to acquire and enrich her practical knowledge specifically for accompanying folk singers.

II. Relevance of the work

The scientific motive of Nadezhda Simeonova Petrova in choosing the topic of the dissertation research is relevant. The development of the piano accompaniment of the folk songs is very successful topic and provides a theoretical and practical perspective for its realization.

III. Presentation of work and assessment of content

The dissertation of Nadezhda Petrova is a total of 360 pages, of which 227 pages are main text, 6 pages of bibliography and 125 pages of appendices. The bibliography includes 173 sources in Cyrillic, 2 in Latin and 3 Internet addresses.

The dissertation is structured as follows: introduction, four chapters, summaries and conclusion, a list of the literature used and five extensive appendices with musical examples, tables and surveys.

The introduction briefly explains the reason for choosing the topic and confirms the relevance of the studied issue. The object, subject, purpose and tasks of the dissertation are precisely and specifically defined. The research methods used are indicated.

The content of the dissertation is well structured, balanced and logically developed. The work starts with an extensive theoretical overview of the publications that contain even a small element of the topic of the dissertation work.

The candidate has managed to achieve the task of comprehensively tracing the development of the piano accompaniment of folk songs with all its components, specifics and piano-related problems. Historically, she analyzes authentic Bulgarian music and different approaches for its arrangements. An important part of the thesis is the study of the changes of the piano part in the genre "folk song with piano accompaniment" from the emergence of professional musical culture in Bulgaria to the present day.

The dissertation is the original work of the author. The structure of the text is well organized. The contributions of the dissertation are formulated correctly and fully satisfy the requirements for a doctoral dissertation.

In her dissertation work, Nadezhda Petrova presents numerous musical fragments and examples, which are derived directly from her musical and performing experience. In the overall review of the text, the summarization and formulation of main conclusions after each chapter or after important subsections in the research work is impressive. I congratulate the author for this approach to organization and structuring of the text, because with this she proves her analytical skills and methodological competence.

IV. Assessment of the publications and the personal contributions

Three articles on the topic of the dissertation are presented. All publications correspond to the problem under consideration and testify to its thorough research.

Nadezhda Petrova competently and convincingly demonstrates her theoretical knowledge on the very diverse and stylistically versatile piano texture in folk songs with piano accompaniment. The author's work as an accompanist for folk singers gives her the opportunity to comment and share her many years of practical experience. From the various

performance and ensemble problems that arise in the process of joint interpretation, Nadezhda Petrova brings out certain theoretically substantiated proposals and piano solutions. In the appendices she makes an attempt to group some of the works according to different indicators of the songs and their piano accompaniments. I believe that the contributions of the presented dissertation have practical significance in the scientific aspect.

V. Abstract

The abstract is 54 pages and corresponds to the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria – to fairly clearly reflect the structural and essential components of the dissertation work, to informatively present the content of the individual chapters and to include the conclusions and contributions of the author.

VI. Recommendations and comments to the dissertation

While examining the dissertation and following the references section, I came across a citation of an author who in 2020 was found guilty of plagiarism. I will consider this fact, as a problem of the incorrect author of the referred article, and not of Nadezhda Petrova's dissertation.

I recommend to doctoral candidate Petrova to continue her research. If she wishes to publish her dissertation as a monograph, I would advise her to carefully specify the sources of the scientific information she uses.

VII. Conclusion

The presented scientific research *Development of the piano accompaniment of folk songs*, prepared by doctoral candidate Nadezhda Petrova, meets the requirements for a dissertation for the acquisition of educational and scientific degree "doctor". Based on the proven scientific contributions and achievements, I give my **positive assessment** to the dissertation research of **Nadezhda Simeonova Petrova** and support the awarding of the educational and scientific degree "**doctor**" in professional direction 8.3. "Music and Dance Art".

Prepared by:

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