

## OPINION

by Assoc. Prof Georgi Metev Petkov, PhD, Department of Music, NBU,

Professional field 8.3 Music and Dance Art

for the doctoral dissertation

of

Paolina Krasenova Vasileva

Titled

on the topic:

### **FOLKLORE INSTRUMENTAL PRACTICES IN VARNA AND SOME SETTLEMENTS IN THE REGION**

for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

Professional field: 8.3. Music and Dance Art

Scientific supervisor: Assoc. Prof Vladimir Vladimirov

The dissertation contains a total of 176 pages, structured in: Introduction, Three Chapters, Conclusion, Literature and Contributions of the research. Numerous theoretical sources have been used to support the development of hypotheses and conclusions about the topic. The bibliography indicates 142 titles of cited literature. The list of author's publications consists of three titles that are related to the topic.

Paolina Vasileva's artistic biography shows her connection with the Bulgarian instrumental folklore and more closely with the folk instrument gadulka (rebec), which she studied from an early age with several renowned teachers. She has won many awards and distinctions from our national music and folklore competitions. In 2008 she graduated with honors the Dobri Hristov National Art School - Varna, after which she received Bachelor's and Master's degree from AMDFA "Prof. Asen Diamandiev" - Plovdiv. In 2018 she was enrolled as a doctoral student at the same Academy.

The dissertation *Folklore instrumental practices in Varna and some settlements in the region* is a kind of addition to some gaps in ethnomusicology regarding regional studies in Northeastern Bulgaria, examining problems related to the main purpose of the study, reflecting the current state of the local folk art after the 1950s to the present day. The **first chapter** presents in historical terms the population of the city of Varna and the surrounding villages with their inherent instrumental practices. Special attention is paid to the settlements inhabited by Vayats and Gagauz - their way of life, culture and musical traditions, similarities, differences and interactions. The **second chapter** focuses on amateur within the amateur art activities both in the city and in the studied villages: Brestak, Cherventsi, Topoli, Dobroplodno and the cities of Beloslav and Valchi Dol. The **third chapter** is focused on the development of the professional instrumental performing arts in the region.

The **object** of the research is the folk instrumental music in Varna and some settlements in the region. The **subject** is amateur, professional and educational musical folklore practices. The aim of the

dissertation is to analyze and study the development and interaction of different manifestations of instrumental musical folklore in the city of Varna and some villages in the region.

The methods used in the research are: observation - including external, analysis and synthesis, as well as interview. Based on the field work and the conducted interviews, the doctoral candidate concludes that the bagpipe and the kaval are the most common instruments in the region before the beginning of the professional ensemble playing.

The abstract accurately reflects the structure and content of the work and emphasizes the most important points, results and conclusions of the study. The contributions are the personal work of the author and contribute to the enrichment of previous research related to folklore - instrumental and musical-performing practice of the studied region. The problem developed in the research is distinguished by its relevance in scientific and applied terms and as a historically reliable facts from the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In conclusion, based on all of the above, I support the author and her dissertation, giving my positive assessment and recommending to the esteemed Scientific Jury to award Paolina Vasileva educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the Professional field (8.3) Music and Dance Art and scientific specialty Musicology and Music Art.

Congratulations to the author and her academic supervisor Prof Vladimir Vladimirov for the success!

Sofia 22.04.2022

Prepared by:

Assoc. Prof Georgi Petkov, PhD